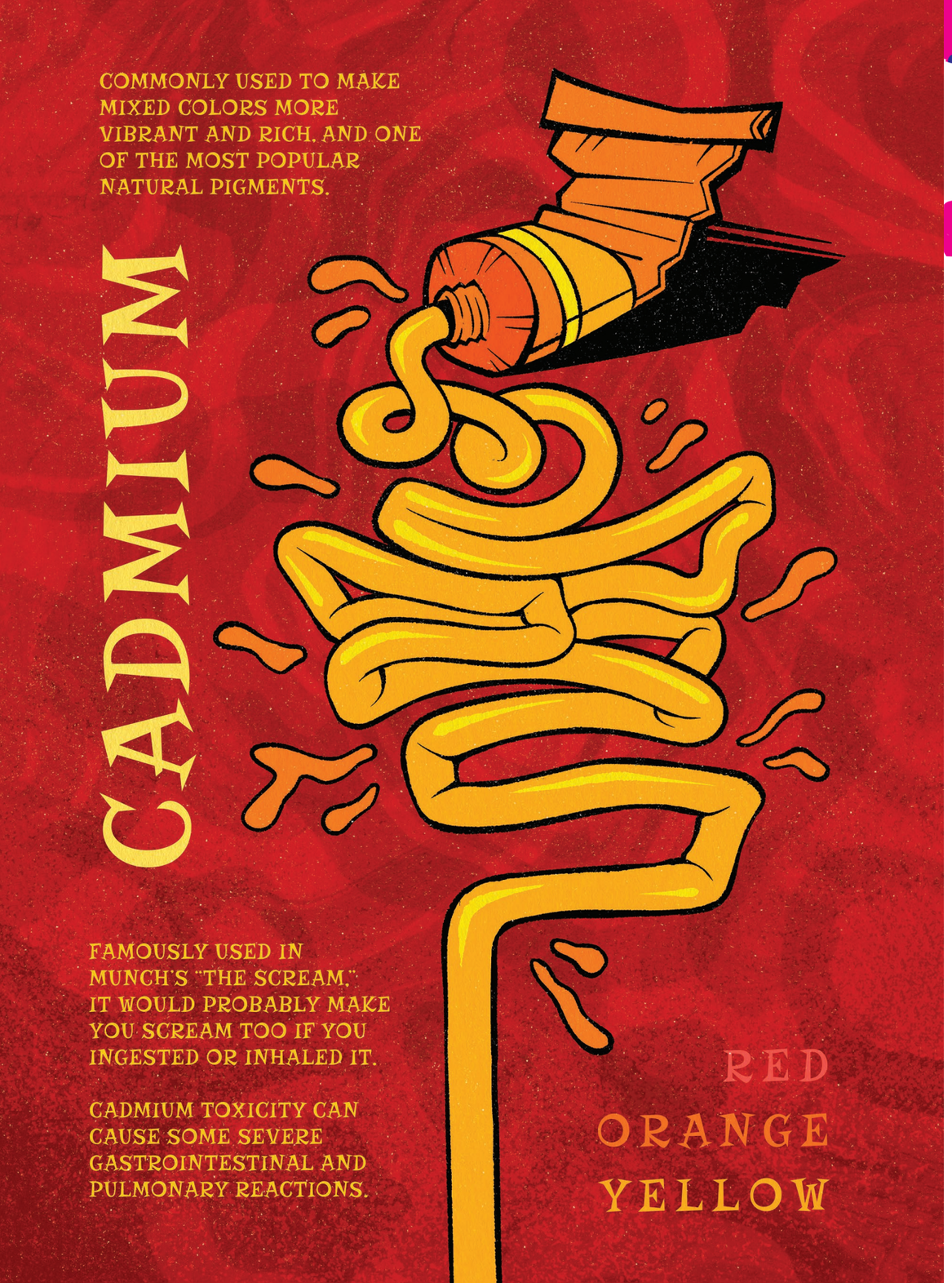
COLOR
XULIN
THE NIB

THE NIB

Illustration by Mark Kaufman



THOSE ARE IDIOT COLORS AND YOU ARE AN IDIOT!

One of my professors in art school would yell this at you if you used paint right out of the tube onto your canvas. I don't recall what the point was—something about idiot lights, those warnings on your car dashboard reminding you you're out of brake fluid. Not exactly a positive or illuminating lesson on color theory. Anyway that dope is dead, I'm here designing *The Nib* magazine each issue, and I'm supposed to write about color as some kind of expert.

I've had a 40-year career as a designer and illustrator, and I'm going to come clean right now: I've pretty much forgotten almost everything I learned about color. I know what my favorite colors are and that's about it. I rely on a small set of colors in my work, make snide comments when the Pantone Color of the Year comes out, and my wardrobe consists of black t-shirts and jeans covered in white dog hair. I'm basically lazy and rely on technology to do most of the work for me. I just point, click, and hope for the best.

I've been fortunate enough to have worked with actual experts in the field, people trained in the art, science, and psychology of color. I've leaned on their expertise and guidance throughout my career. They actually know what color is, what it means, how to get the colors in your mind's eye down on paper, up on a wall, or across a screen.

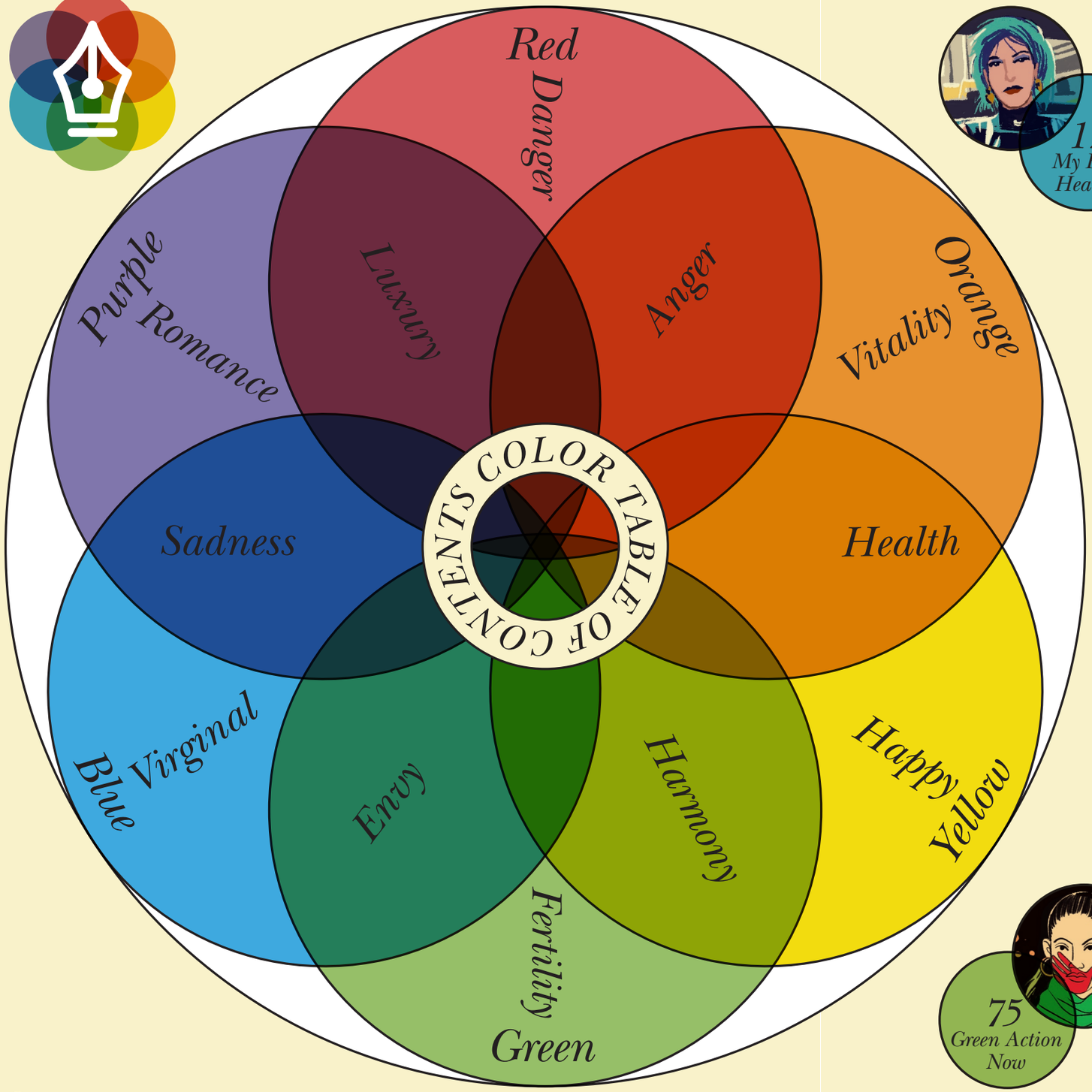
They're the real heroes, doing the colorful grunt work behind the scenes while the rest of us go about our business.

What I'm trying to say is, color is a difficult thing to pin down. We can't quite touch it, yet it touches us in a thousand different ways every day. Color signifies danger, it spurs the imagination; it makes us happy, soothes us, or amps us up. It's celebrated by artists, poets, and songwriters. *Am I blue? Ain't these tears in these eyes tellin' you?* Red Right Hand, Purple Rain, Back in Black. Color is a real thing, it exists, but to most of us it's nothing more than an illusion, an idea.

Everyone has their own ideas about what color is and what it means to them, so we tasked Ally Shwed to write about gendered colors, Mirranda Burton to address skin color in apartheid South Africa, and Erlend Hjortland Sandøy to cover the Green movement. We asked serious questions about colorism and rainbow flags, and had some fun around the ideas of paint swatches, blue hair, and red states.

As for me? I would have done the entire issue in black and white. For a joke, but mostly to hide my insecurities about working with color. As always I will say a silent prayer this issue comes off the press without any major screwups. But when it comes to color, I am not an idiot.

Mark Kaufman
Designer and Noted Color Expert



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Covers, contributors page, masthead, and section illustrations by Xulin.

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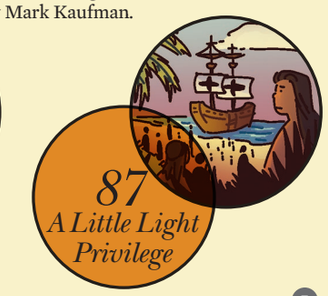

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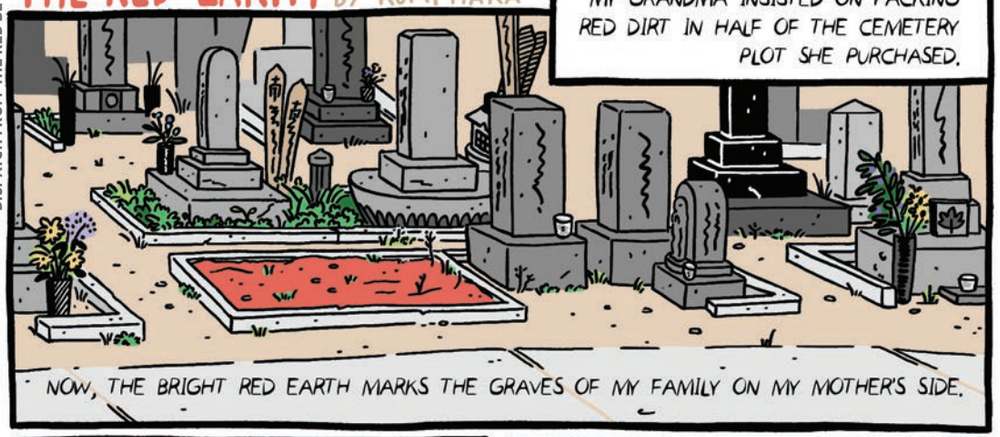
DISPATCHES

THE RED EARTH

BY RUMI HARA



The Wonder of My Hair

by Lynn Von Sien

I was a flaming red-headed baby adopted by a raven-haired family.

Dark Swede

Italian

As I grew, my hair color kept morphing.

1966

1972

1979

Was my hair reacting to the adoptee identity crisis inside my head, or was there a scientific reason?

A person's hair color is the result of at least 11 genes that inform the melanin-producing pigment cells called melanocytes located at the bottom of each strand of hair.

hair shaft
skin surface
epidermis
nerve
dermis
sebaceous gland
melanocyte
dermal papilla
hair follicle
vein
artery

Me

My best friend Kit, also adopted

There are two types of melanin: black-brown eumelanin (determines darkness) and yellow or red pheomelanin (warmth).

If we think of melanin-producing genes as colored pencils, my shag-era hair might've been informed by these:

LIGHT YELLOW OCHRE
CADMIUM ORANGE
SAND
EGGSHELL
TERRACOTTA
GOLDENROD
DARK CADMIUM ORANGE
SANGUINE
CREAM

The more eumelanin that gets produced, the darker the hair. Kit's melanocytes made lots more eumelanin than mine did:

RAW UMBER
DARK SEPIA
BURNT SIENA
BROWN OCHRE
BURNT OCHRE
BISTRE
BLACK
WALNUT BROWN

And here's the thing: They can switch on or off over the course of our lives! Why? Changing hormone levels, age, and nutrition. There are "other factors" and "not everything is known."

(with thanks to Andrea Gargas, Ph.D.)

So could "identity crisis" be among these other factors?

Everything is just vibes, man.

Far out. I can totally dig that.

Blue Hair (No Pronouns)

By Linette Moore

1994.

Waterstones bookstore, Newbury St., Boston.

Up the stairs, a casual circuit of the floor ...

And, if nobody's looking ...

... The book I shouldn't be looking at.

Nan Goldin's THE OTHER SIDE, a collection of photos of gender-nonconforming people, trans people, and drag queens.

"Misty and Jimmy Paulette in a Taxi, NYC," 1991.

The photo is from a world that was supposedly close to me, in both space and time.

But in the homophobic '90s, it felt like a world too dangerous to enter.

Since I was a kid, movies, tv, cartoons, and music had driven home the message:

It wasn't safe to be queer, or even worse – trans.

MOVIE

So it wasn't something that I could face directly.

There wasn't any clearly marked path to take.

But now and then, there were glimpses.

It got to be too much,

this search for a forbidden thing.

By the late '90s I sort of gave up.

I found myself anyway ...

... it just took a while.

Time has passed. There are still bigots and bad expectations,

but now I know the world outside the straight, cisgender one is so much closer than I thought.

It's the world I live in now.

THE MIDDLE EAST'S BATTLE OVER THE RAINBOW

by Yazan Al-Saadi and J. Gilling

See you not that God sends down water from the sky? With it We produce fruits of various colors. And in the mountains are streaks of white and red varying in their hue and pitch-black. (Quran 35:27)

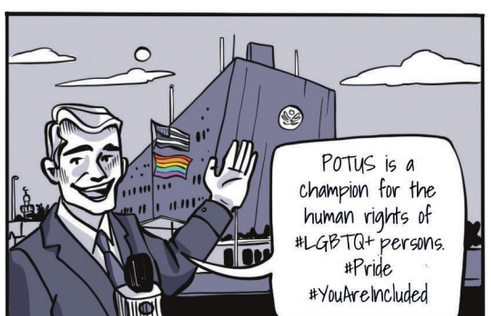
In September 2017, Sarah Hegazi, an IT specialist and socialist queer activist, proudly waved a rainbow flag at a concert in Cairo.

She was swiftly arrested and charged with promoting sexual deviancy and debauchery. Jailed for three months, she was tortured by authorities and assaulted by other prisoners.

Sarah fled Egypt to Canada.

But suffering from depression and PTSD, she committed suicide in 2020.

Sarah's death is part of a complex crackdown on the LGBTQ+ community in the West Asian and North African region, lately centered on banning queer iconography – particularly the rainbow flag.



Meanwhile, the "Global North" pays lip service to supporting LGBTQ+ rights, exploiting incidents of repression to support their own Islamophobic and Arab-bashing narratives.

Yet modern homophobia's roots in the Middle East and North Africa stem from European colonizers. Throughout the region's history, approaches on sexuality have been more fluid.

Painting by Al-Hariri, Syria or Iraq, 1240 CE.

Many laws criminalizing homosexual practices region-wide today were established during colonial eras by the British and French (hand-in-hand with power-seeking local elites and the upper class) to impose social control.

Colonizers – followed by the religious conservatives' rise in the 1970s – forced people from Morocco to Bahrain to adopt puritanical ideas that criminalized nonconformists, often scapegoating them for society's problems.

This persists today with laws that forbid "unnatural acts" (Syria's Article 520), debauchery (Egypt's Law No.10), or sodomy (UAE's Article 80 of Dubai's Penal Code).

Jordanian MP Dima Tahboub

Ultimately, the battle over the rainbow is intimately intertwined with a grander social struggle to reclaim the very vibrancy of our world.

Likewise, human beings, animals, and livestock come in various colors. From among His servants, the learned fear God. God is Almighty, Oft-Forgiving. (Quran 35:28)

INTO THE DEEP

BY TRINIDAD ESCOBAR

WE FIND DAZZLING COLORS ON MARINE LIFE IN SHALLOW REEFS BECAUSE OF ALL THE AVAILABLE LIGHT SHINING DOWN FROM OUR STAR.

AS THE SUN'S LIGHT MOVES DEEPER TOWARDS THE "TWILIGHT ZONE" THE ORGANISMS CHANGE FROM BRILLIANTLY PATTERNED TO MOSTLY BLUE AND SILVER.

BARELY ANY LIGHT CAN REACH THE DEEPEST PART OF OUR OCEAN. THERE WE FIND THE PHENOMENAL DISPLAYS OF BIOLUMINESCENT ORGANISMS.

MOST BIOLUMINESCENCE HERE USES THE SHORTER WAVELENGTHS OF BLUE-GREEN LIGHT.

SALE!

ORGANISMS LIVING ON THE SEAFLOOR TEND TO HAVE GREEN OR YELLOW COLORS BECAUSE THOSE TRANSMIT BEST IN MUDDY WATER.

LIGHT CANNOT REACH BELOW 1,000 METERS (3,300 ft). EVOLUTION SHAPED BIOLUMINESCENCE INTO A CAMOUFLAGE THAT MATCHES THE LIGHT OF OTHER ORGANISMS.

THE SEAFLOOR IS NOT THE TRUE DEPTH OF OUR OCEAN. THAT LIES IN THE TRENCHES, THE DEEPEST OF WHICH IS THE CRESCENT-SHAPED MARIANA TRENCH.

MOUNT EVEREST ~9,000 km HIGH (29,000 ft).

MARIANA'S OWN DEEPEST POINTS ARE SIRENA DEEP AND CHALLENGER DEEP, AROUND 11,000 km (36,000 ft) DEEP.

RED LIGHT DOESN'T REACH THE DEEP SEA.

BECAUSE OF THIS, SEA CREATURES GET REDDER AS WE TRAVEL DEEPER. THEIR COLOR IS UNDETECTABLE IN THE MIDNIGHT WATER.

WHEN A SINGLE PHOTON OF LIGHT CAN ATTRACT ATTENTION, BIOLUMINESCENCE IS A DISADVANTAGE. HERE, ULTRA-BLACK IS THE WAY TO GO.

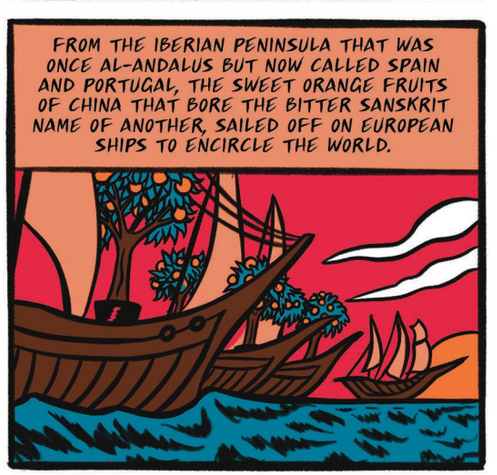
THE NEAR-COMPLETE LIGHT ABSORPTION OF ULTRA-BLACK ORGANISMS DEPENDS ON MELANIN, THE SAME PIGMENT THAT COLORS AND PROTECTS HUMAN SKIN FROM SUNLIGHT.

THESE FISH REFLECT LESS THAN 0.5% OF LIGHT ACROSS THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM. ULTRA-BLACK IS AN INCREDIBLE FEAT OF EVOLUTION.

WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE REMAINS HIDDEN FROM OUR VIEW?

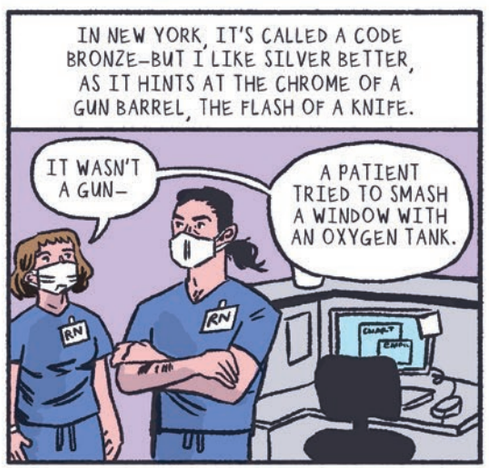
BITTER ORANGE

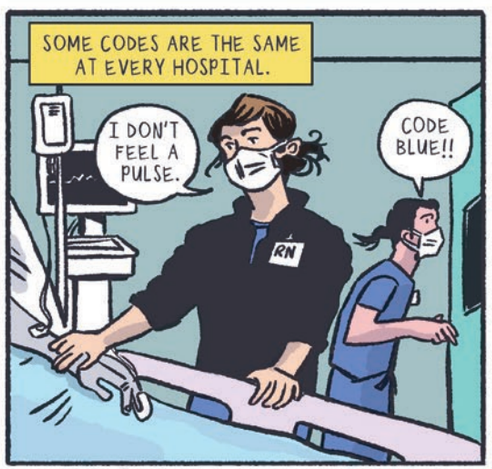
BY ANDY WARNER AND TRACY CHAHWAN



DON'T PANIC

by Ernesto Barbieri, RN and Jess Ruliffson





GEt the NiB IN YOUR iNBOX

Sign up for *The Nib*'s daily newsletter and start your day with free comics instead of a Zoom meeting. Every weekday morning we send out brand-new work from some of the best political and nonfiction cartoonists in the world, satirizing or digging deeper into all the headlines you were mad about the day before. You could not possibly begin your day in a better way while staring at your phone.

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Read new work from established satirists like Tom Tomorrow, Jen Sorensen, and Mattie Lubchansky, and up-and-comers like Charis JB and Niccolo Pizarro.

NONFICTION AND MEMOIR

Weekly long-form comics, like on-the-ground reportage from BLM protests, unexplored areas of history, and Breena Nuñez's Ignatz-nominated comic "I Exist" on their nonbinary identity.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

From a look at the cult in South Korea whose denialism helped spread COVID-19 to illustrated reporting from Russia's recent election, we're publishing comics you won't find anywhere else online.

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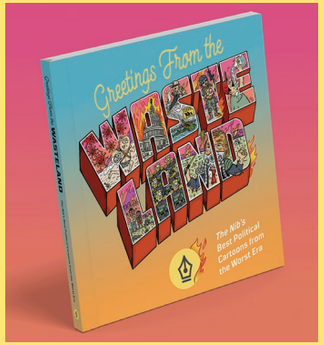
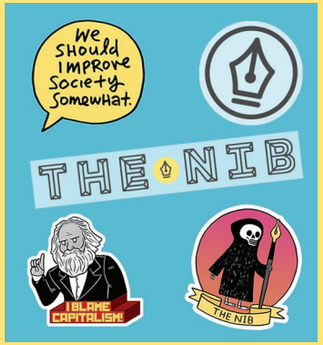


BOOKSTORE DISCOUNTS

PHONE BACKGROUNDS



DID SOMEONE SAY STICKERS?

THE NIB

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COBALT BLUE

CONTAINS BOTH STINKY SULFUR AND OUR OLD FRIEND ARSENIC. MINING THE COBALT FOR THE DEEP BLUE PAINT CREATES CLOUDS OF HARMFUL INHALANTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS THAT ARE NOXIOUS TO THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE WHO MINE IT AND TO THE EARTH FROM WHICH IT'S BEING MINED.

THE RESPONSE

Each issue we ask four cartoonists a question. For this Response, we wanted to hear about personal palette aversions from fashion-conscious cartoonists.

FASHION VICTIMS

Illustration by Georgina Chadderton

Damian Alexander

When I was a kid, I was only allowed to wear traditionally masculine colors like boring gray.

My family worried that I would get bullied, or *worse*, which made me fearful of fun colors and what would happen if I wore them.

But in college, I found the most marvelous thing: a pair of pastel-pink Converse sneakers in a men's size 11, which was unheard of.

!

MEN'S CLEARANC

Colorful shoes NEVER come in MY size!

Walking home from the bus for spring break weeks later, the worst happened.

NICE SHOES, FAG!

What a waste of a milkshake!

. . . And that was it?

So I just kicked the pink sludge off my pink sneakers and kept walking.

Georgina Chadderton

AS A KID & YOUNG TEEN, I SHIED AWAY FROM THE COLOUR PINK. PARTLY BECAUSE IT FELT LIKE THE ONLY OPTION.

GIRLS SECTION

LIKE, HOW ABOUT SOME BLUE OR EVEN YELLOW!

AND PARTLY BECAUSE PINK WAS MY BROTHER'S FAVOURITE COLOUR AND I WANTED MY OWN THING.

BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF LOOKING LIKE A "GIRL."

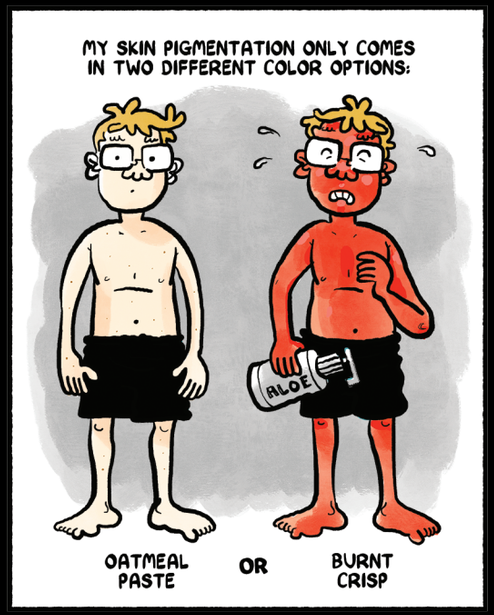
HISS

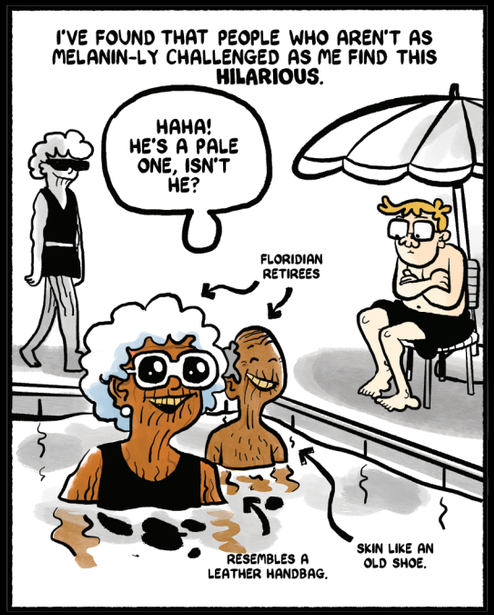
I FEEL SAD THAT I DENIED MYSELF THE JOYS OF PINK FOR SO LONG.

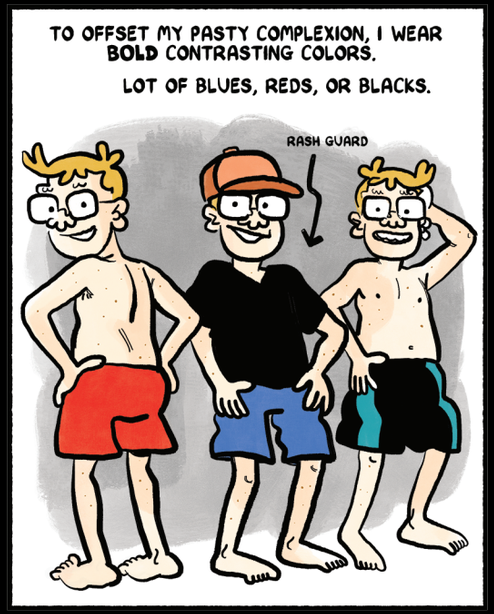
LOOKIN' GOOD, BABE!

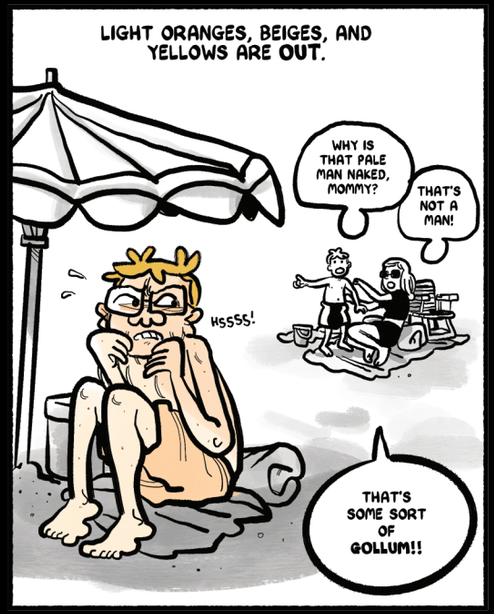
THANKS!

Mike Dawson







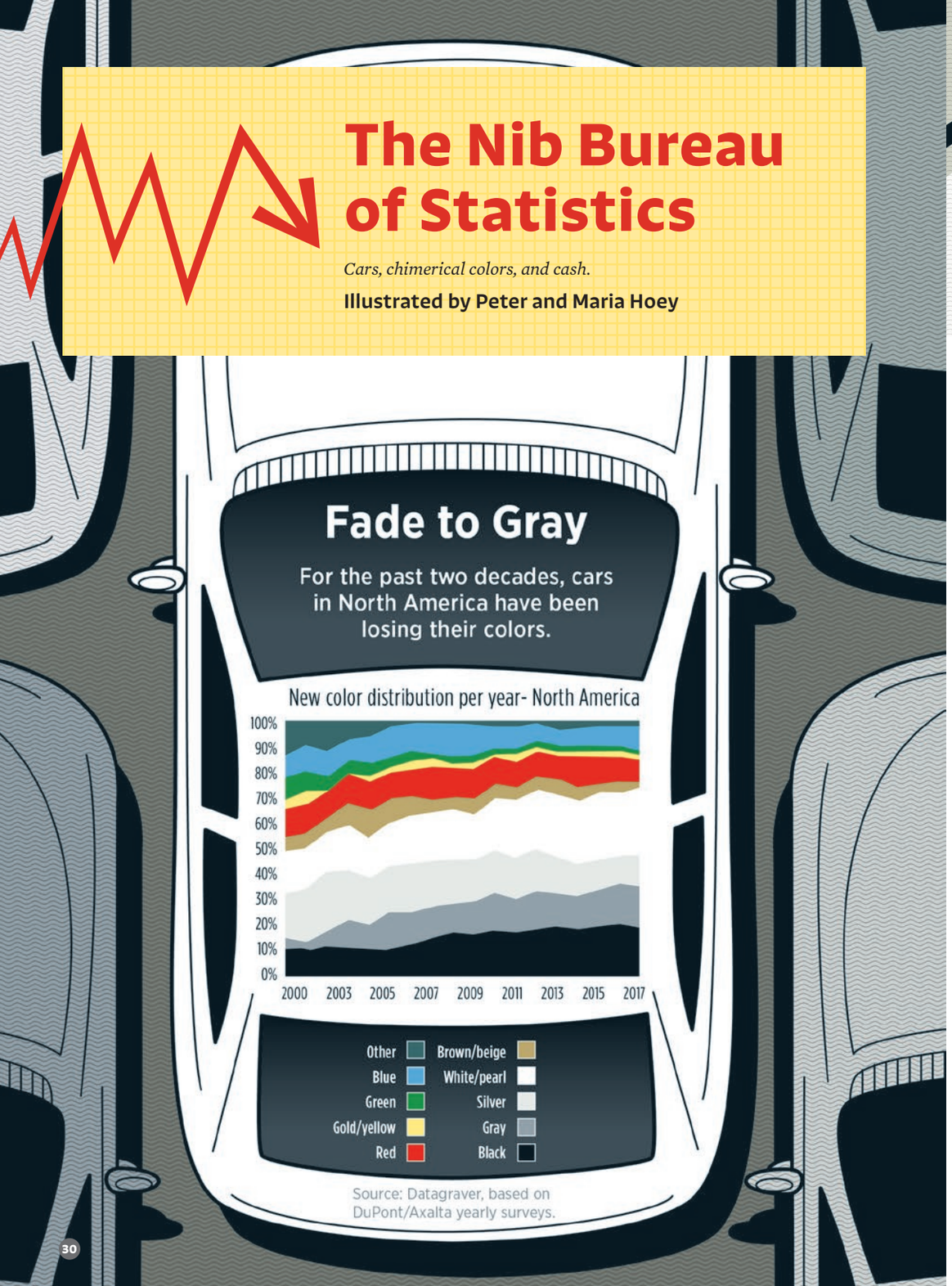


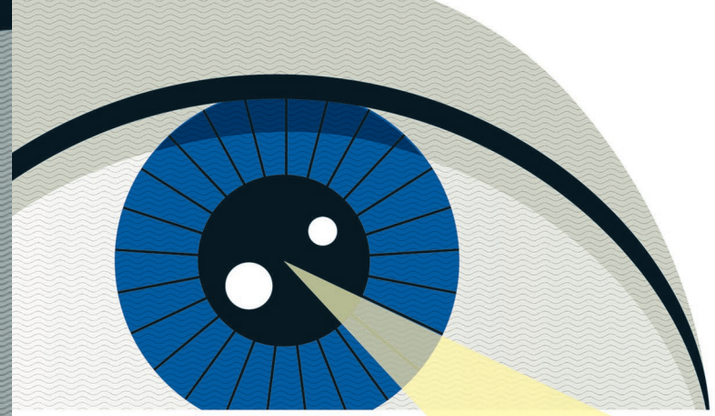
Lesley Imgart

The Nib Bureau of Statistics

Cars, chimerical colors, and cash.

Illustrated by Peter and Maria Hoey





Three Classes of Chimerical Colors

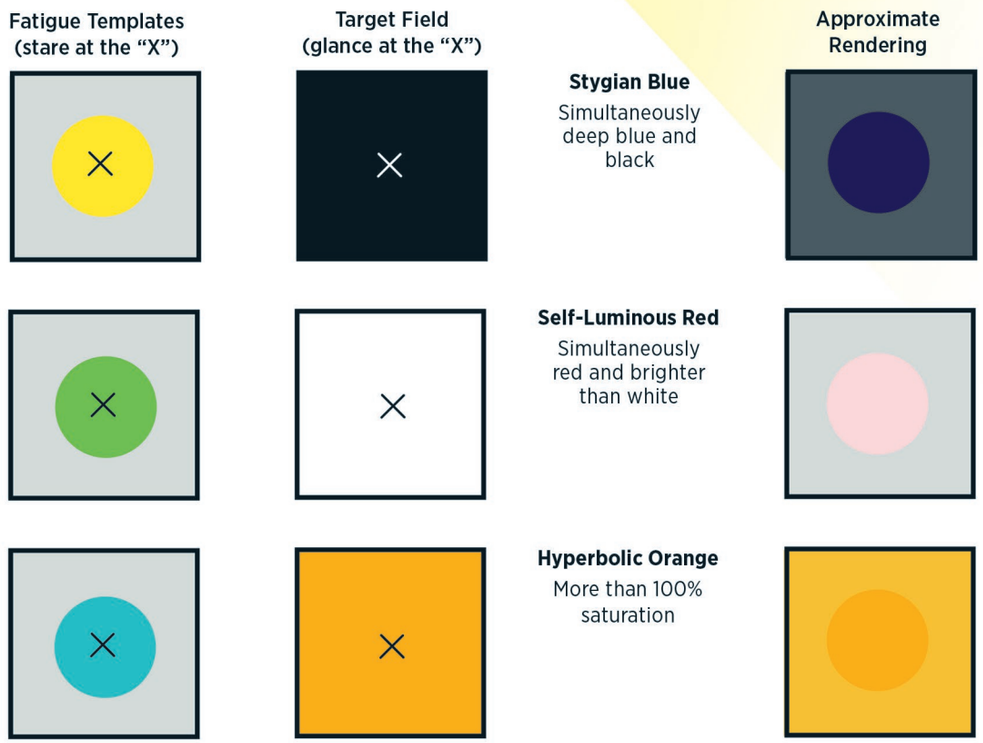
Stygian:
Dark colors with an impossible level of saturation

Semi-Luminous:
Colors that appear to glow from within

Hyperbolic:
Colors pushed into an impossible level of saturation

See the Unseeable

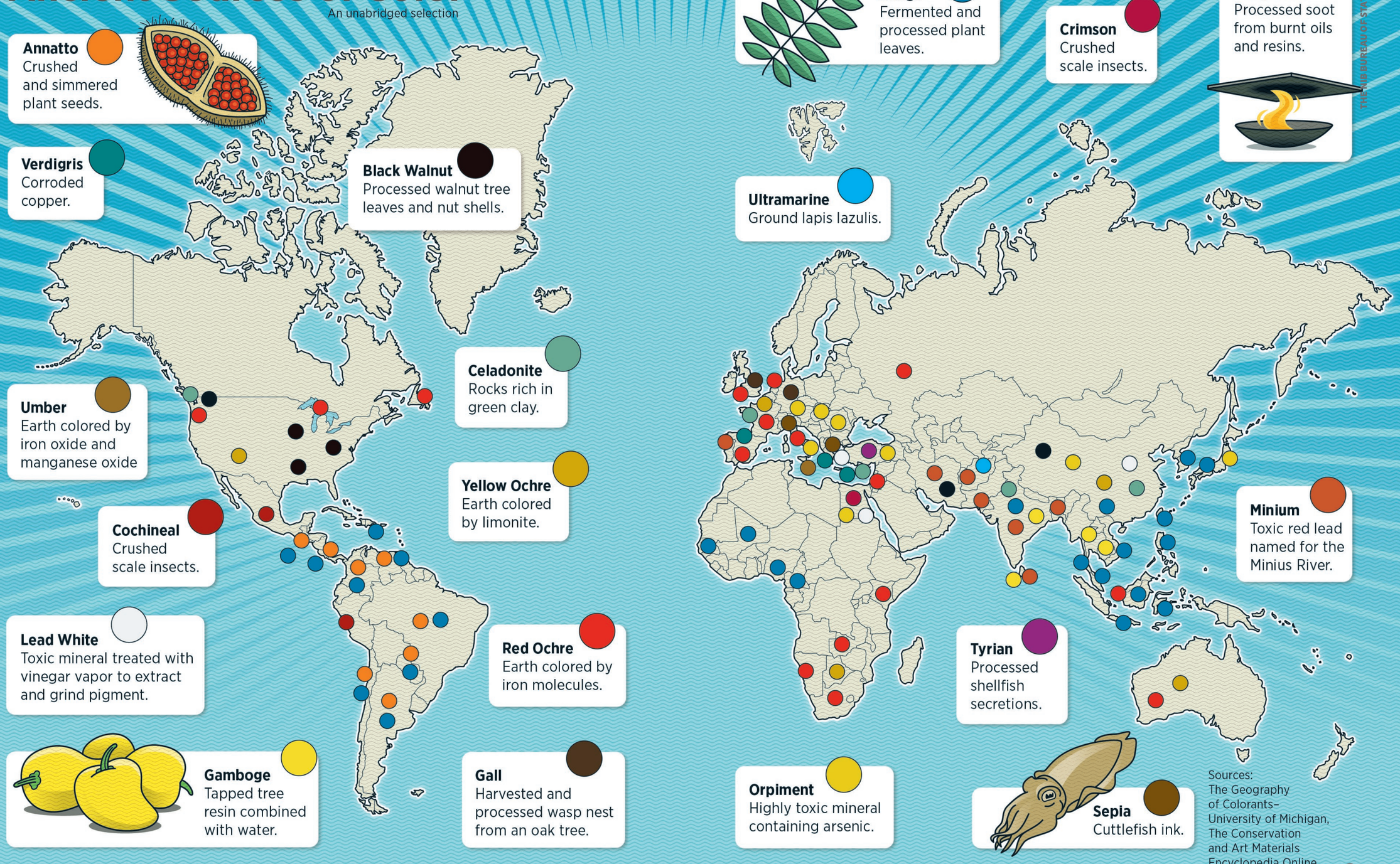
Chimerical colors are imaginary colors unable to be reproduced in nature that can be seen by humans by temporarily making our eyes malfunction. Try it yourself by staring at the X in the middle of the single-color dot on the left for about a minute, which desensitizes the cones in your eyeball. Quickly look over at the X on the right in the target and you'll see the aftereffect of the dot colored against a field.



Source: *Scientific American*

Ancient Sources of Color

An unabridged selection

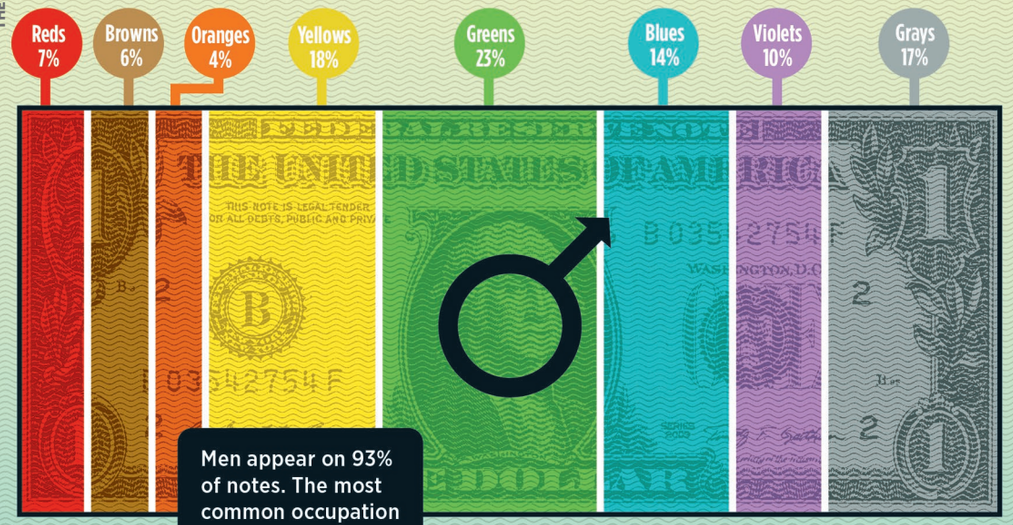


Sources:
The Geography of Colorants–University of Michigan, The Conservation and Art Materials Encyclopedia Online

THE NIB BUREAU OF STATISTICS

The Color of Money

Cash around the world comes in all sorts of shades. But not even capital is untouched by the soft power of American aesthetics. Green is the most common currency color around the globe, followed by yellow, gray, and blue.



Men appear on 93% of notes. The most common occupation is politician.

Source: "Currency in Color," June 2020, money.co.uk

SCHEELE'S GREEN

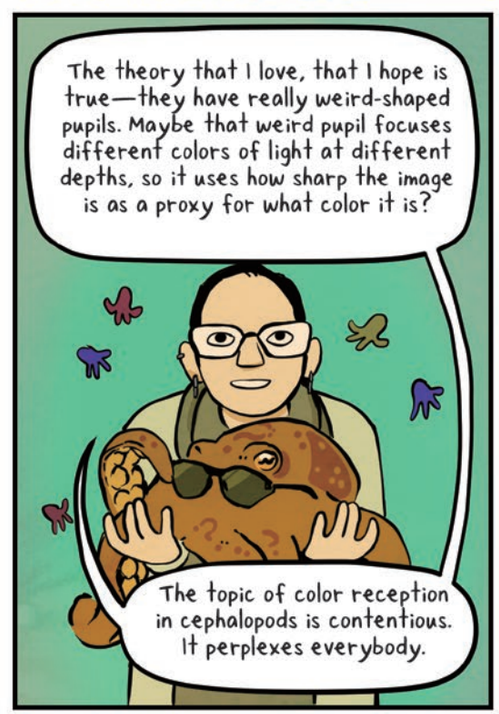
USED ALL OVER EUROPE TO DYE PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING FOR MUCH OF THE 1800S, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S TOYS AND CANDIES.

DERIVED FROM ARSENIC, IT WAS PHENOMENALLY TOXIC.

NAPOLEON'S WALLPAPER IN HIS HOME WAS DYED WITH THE COLOR AND IT ULTIMATELY CONTRIBUTED TO HIS DEATH: TRACES OF ARSENIC WERE FOUND IN HIS HAIR DURING AN AUTOPSY.

The Nib Interview

Dr. Judit Pungor studies how octopuses see. At the University of Oregon Neill Lab, she explores what's going on in those cephalopod brains. Interview by Audra McNamee



How Sunday Funnies Appear in Color

Look closely—very closely—at a Sunday comic strip in a printed newspaper. You might need the magnifying feature on a smartphone or a *loupe*, a small magnifying device, to see the dots that make up most areas of color on Sunday pages, and all of the tints in black ink Sunday through Saturday.

Clustered dots of varying sizes fool the eye into seeing tones. Just four ink colors—black, cyan (light blue), magenta (a rosy red), and yellow—can combine in different densities to form most colors, though some appear garish or washed out. Newspapers began printing color in 1894 using this process and continue today. The dots used to simulate tones are referred to generically as a *screen* or in photos as a *halftone*.

Cartoonists don't create these dots—they're added during print production. Cartoonists started with pen and ink on paper. Starting in 1894, their drawings were shot as photographic negatives, which were then exposed under intense light onto photosensitized zinc metal plates.

To add tints, cartoonists (or often an assistant or colorist) roughly marked up their drawings, indicating which grays or colors should appear in which areas. Comics syndicates created a limited set of colors to choose from based on mixing tints at different percentages, and those numbers would be marked on the comic. Some cartoonists used color pencil or watercolors on their original or a copy as an additional guide.

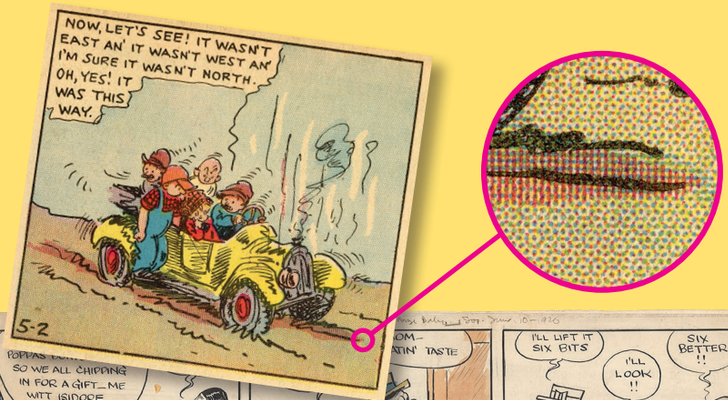
In production, engravers took the zinc plates—a single black plate for weekdays, and four separate ones for Sunday color comics—and painted around each area that needed tone using a water-soluble material called *gamboge*. They applied an oily ink to a sheet in a frame somewhat resembling a silk screen called a *Ben Day screen* that was covered with tiny dots for the desired tint. The engraver then placed the screen over the areas on the zinc plate that needed tint applied and used a burnisher to rub down the Ben Day pattern. They then washed the gamboge off. They might have to do this dozens to hundreds of times for a Sunday strip.

The zinc plate subsequently went into an acid bath that etched areas unexposed to light and those not covered by Ben Day dots. This left all the exposed and inked areas in relief for printing. Newspaper printing and nearly all other printing through the 1980s relied on inking these raised surfaces and pressing them directly onto paper. (By the 1980s, a flat-plate process called offset printing had replaced relief printing.)

A syndicate took these plates and under pressure created paper molds (or "mats") in the hundreds or thousands to send to newspapers around the country. Newspapers cast lead alloy plates from the molds for their presses.

Today, cartoonists work in full color and rely on a digital process to separate their colors into CMYK, but the same tiny dots rule the Sunday roost.

Glenn Fleishman
Independent type and printing historian specializing in comics print production and materials

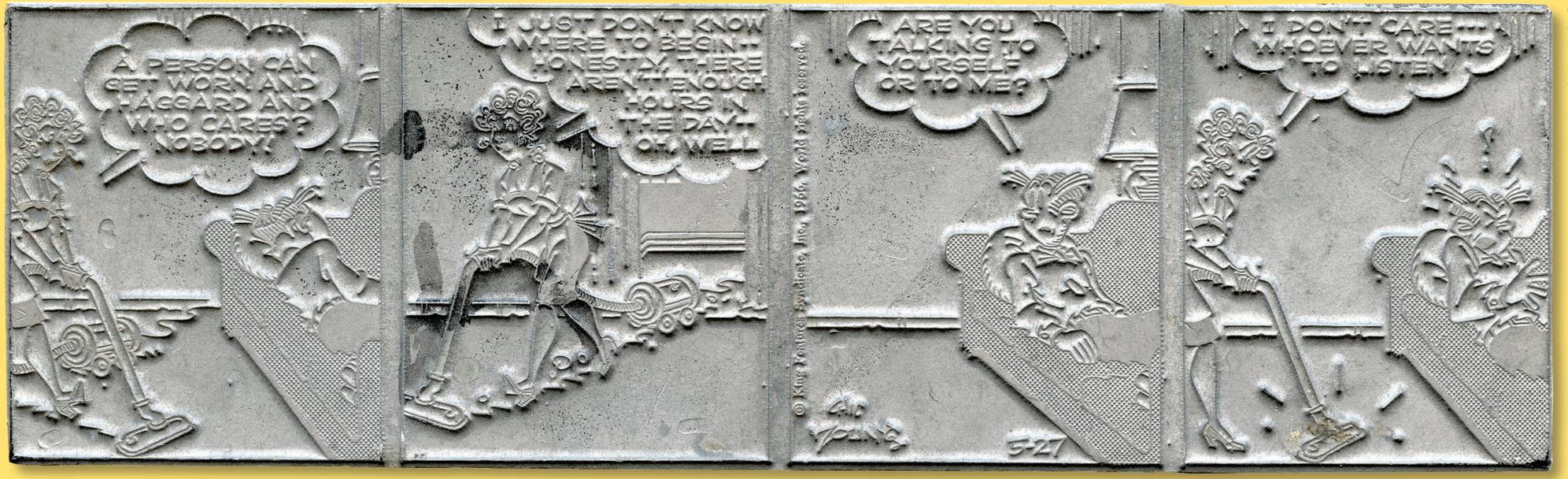


Percy Crosby
When tiny dots of different colors combine, they appear like solid tints to the naked eye. Zoom in and you can see dots that made up the tint pattern, including rosettes formed by all four colors. (May 2, 1943) *Skippy*

Milt Gross
A color guide created for a Milt Gross Sunday comic used watercolors to indicate tints. Only the first instance of each character or element is typically colored as a guide for the etcher. (1928) *Press Publishing Company*

Chance Browne
The color guide for this Hi & Lois Sunday strip used markers to flesh out details with corresponding numbers found on a production company's color chart. The artist also marked areas to "air brush," or overlap tones in a gradation. (2012) ©*2012 Comicana, Inc., Hi & Lois*

Charles Schulz
A four-color separation of a Peanuts Sunday comic in flongs, or heavy paper molds for casting, showing blue/cyan, red/magenta, yellow, and black/key plates. These unused flongs were shipped to a Stockholm newspaper and then sold in an estate sale to a thrift shop nearly 50 years later. (August 1, 1976) *Peanuts*



Chic Young
A stereotype plate of a daily comic showing the Ben Day dots etched as tints; the plate is mirrored here for readability. (May 27, 1966) *Blondie*

URANIUM

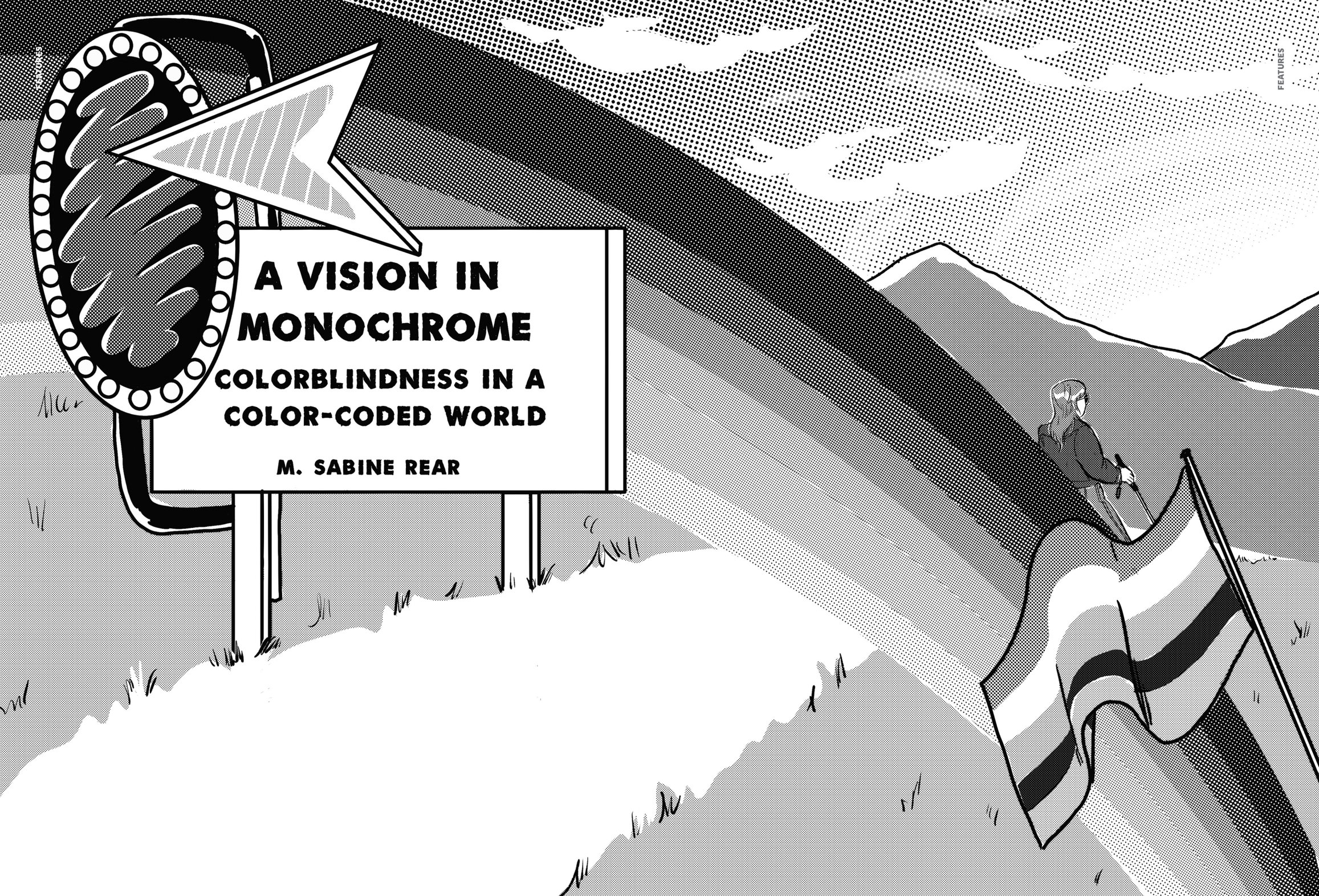
YELLOW AND GREEN

FORMERLY USED TO TINT GLASS AND GLAZE POTTERY, AS WELL AS MAKE A FLUORESCENT, OPAQUE YELLOW PAINT.

IT'S RADIOACTIVE... THAT KIND OF SAYS IT ALL, DOESN'T IT?

EVEN THOUGH IT MAY LOOK STUNNING, BEST TO NOT COLLECT THAT PRETTY GREEN GLASSWARE.

FEATURES



A VISION IN MONOCHROME

COLORBLINDNESS IN A COLOR-CODED WORLD

M. SABINE REAR

FEATURES

I've been fully colorblind all my life.

I explain what this is like by telling people...

I never would've guessed that only the Sunday paper is in color!

The movie *Pleasantville* was totally lost on me.

My high school boyfriend was so hyped about the movie *Memento* until he realized he had to tell me each time the film cut to sepia tone.

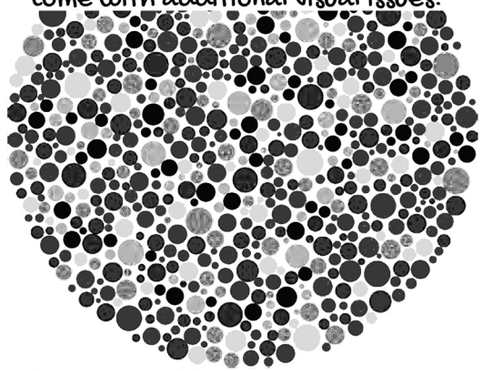
When I was in college a friend told me about their colorblind cousin who dressed as a tree for Halloween...

...only to be constantly mistaken for broccoli.

That's when I learned that the kindergarten adage that "trees are green" is inadequately nuanced.

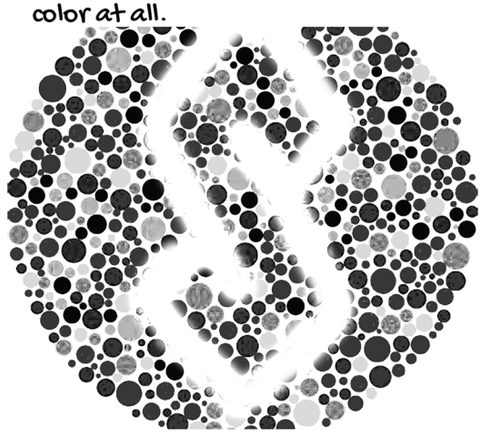
I use these stories to help sighted people understand how I see the world, because they find it difficult to grasp, much as I struggle to understand color as a concept.

There are a few types of colorblindness. The most common type is characterized by difficulty distinguishing limited colors from each other. This overwhelmingly affects men and doesn't generally come with additional visual issues.



About 4.5% of the world's population is colorblind (that's about 300 million people).

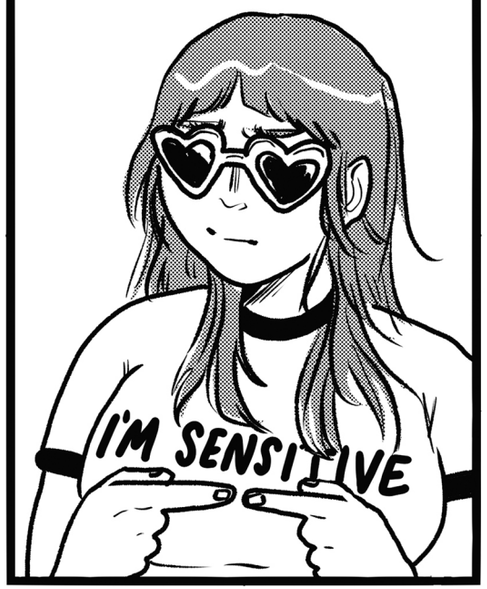
I have achromatopsia — or "rod monochromacy" — which means I was born without color receptors in my retinae. So I don't see any color at all.



This is rather rare (1 in 30,000 people) and comes with a host of interconnected visual issues.

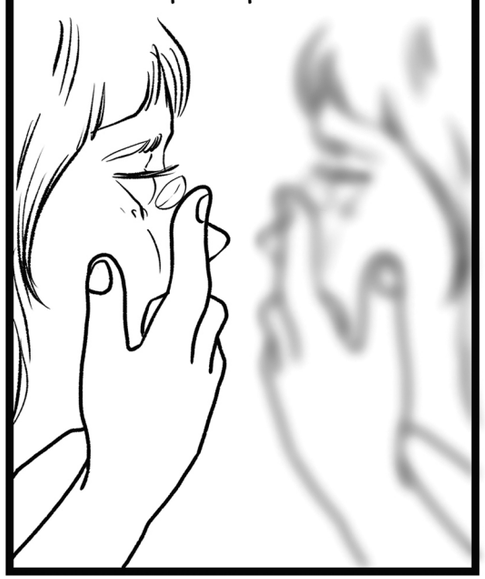
Including...

I am highly light sensitive and I wear sunglasses outdoors.



I have very limited distance vision and use tools to navigate safely.

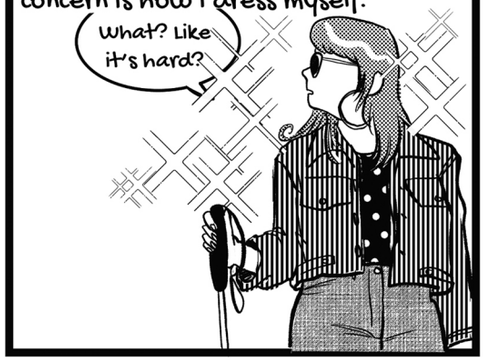
My visual acuity is also impacted. Without contacts and glasses my world is very blurry.



I can't say that I think about color daily, compared to how often I think about avoiding running into things and being hit by cars.

In middle school a classmate was fixated on making me guess what color things were.

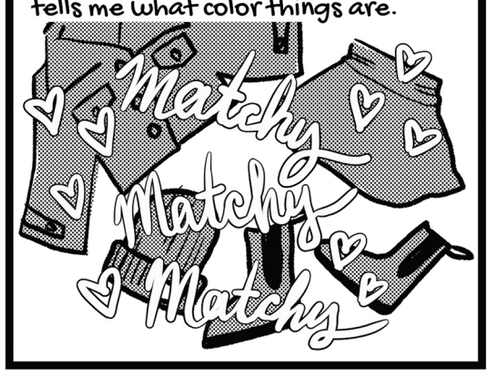
As an adult I can't say that people have matured. A common point of concern is how I dress myself.



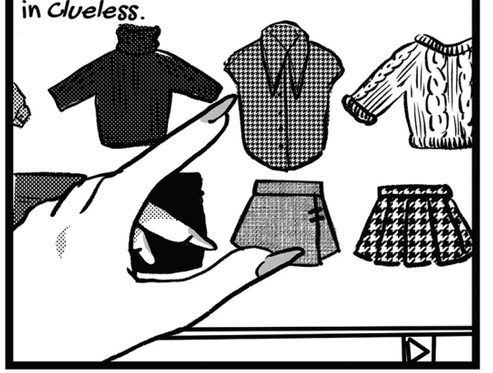
For me, not having a concept of what "clashing" is feels pretty freeing!

Sometimes a friend will warn me off a particularly ugly color or a combo that evokes an unintended message.

And although I don't always ask, I always remember when someone tells me what color things are.

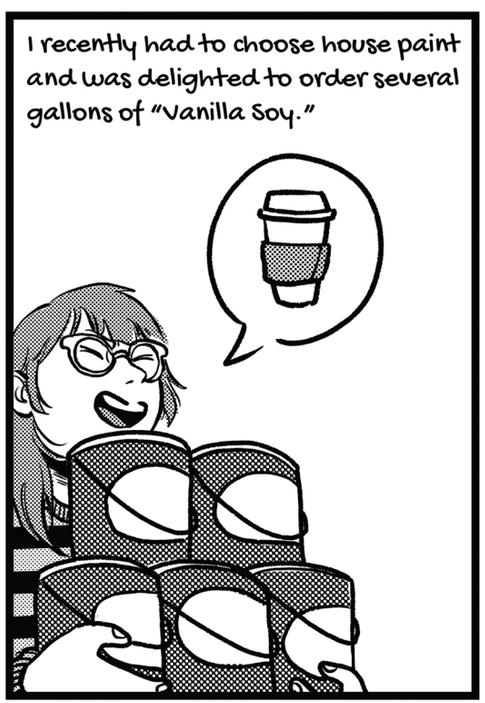


The inside of my mind is like Cher Horowitz's digital outfit-generator in *Clueless*.

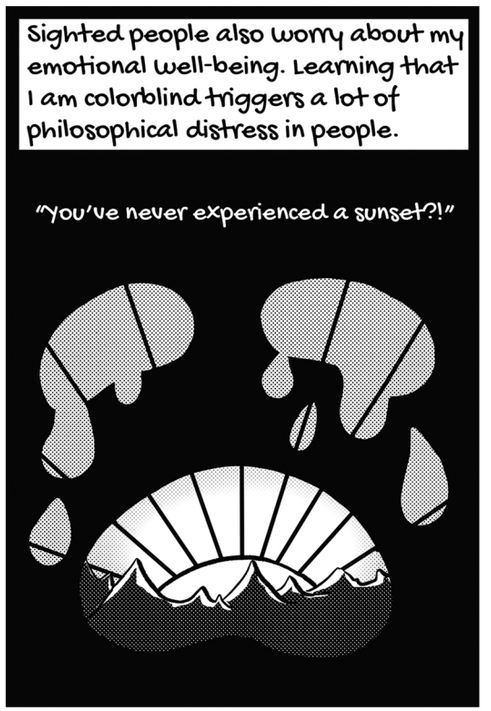


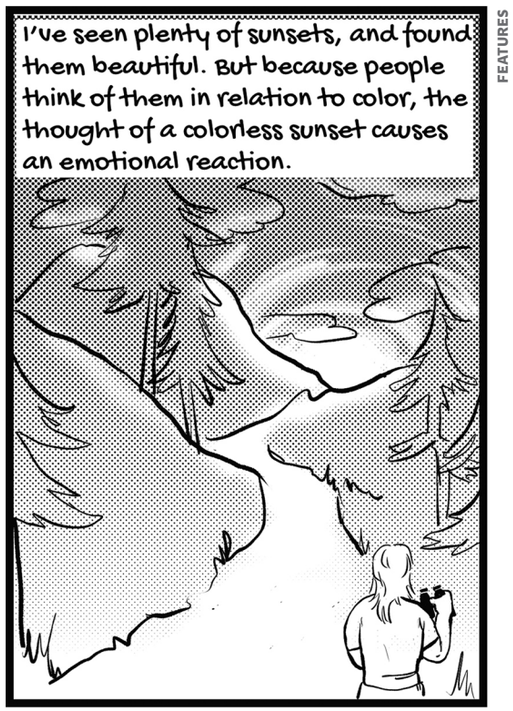
Because I am forced to interact with a color-centric world, I have to get creative about how I make choices.

I pick out nail polish by seeking out the sassiest or punniest color names.
"You do Blue" ;-)

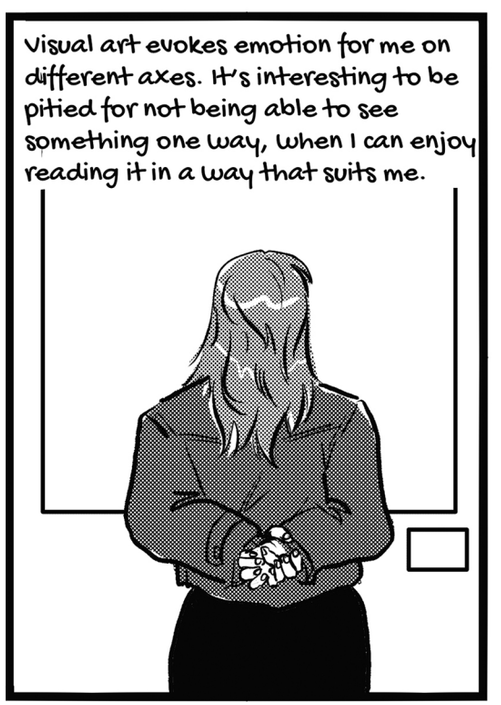

I recently had to choose house paint and was delighted to order several gallons of "Vanilla Soy."

I like these choices because they turn color into textual information I can use my own arbitrary rules to decode.
I may not know where to find "Vanilla Soy" or "You do Blue" on the color wheel, but the stakes aren't too high.

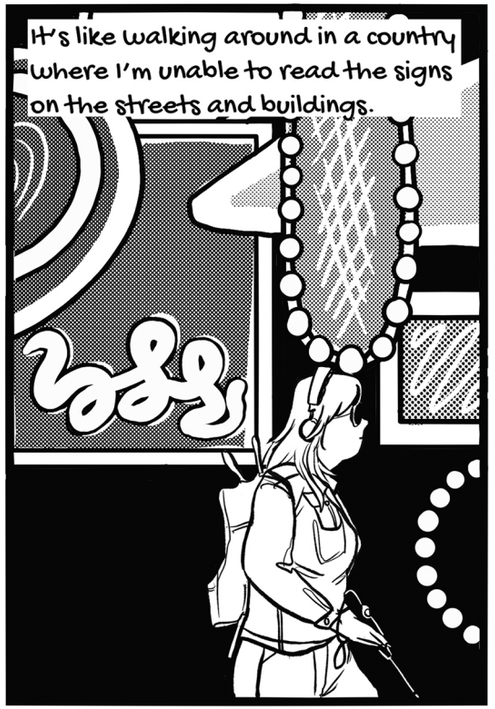

Sighted people also worry about my emotional well-being. Learning that I am colorblind triggers a lot of philosophical distress in people.
"You've never experienced a sunset?!"


I've seen plenty of sunsets, and found them beautiful. But because people think of them in relation to color, the thought of a colorless sunset causes an emotional reaction.

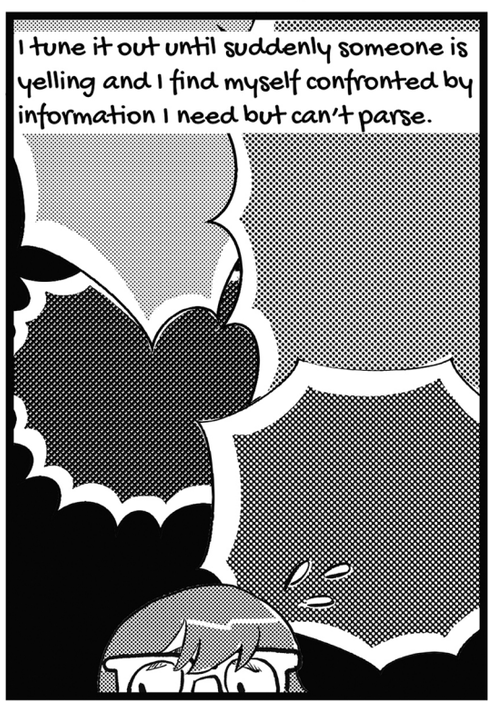
While I can intellectually grasp how the sunset-hued walls of Rothko's Chapel make sighted people weep, the impact is lost on me.

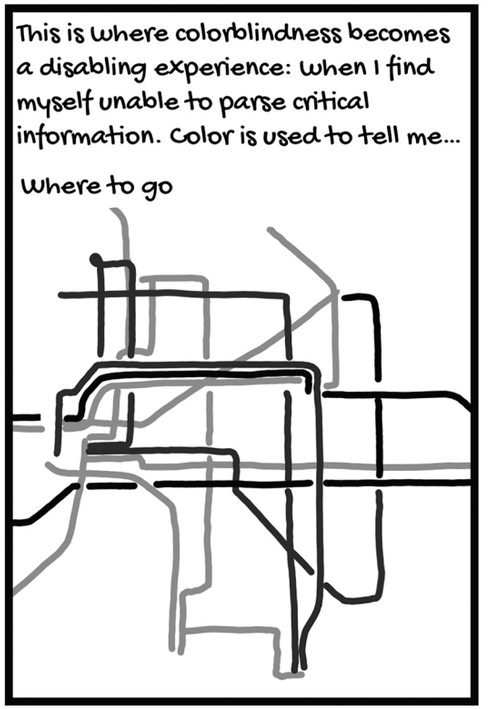

Visual art evokes emotion for me on different axes. It's interesting to be pitied for not being able to see something one way, when I can enjoy reading it in a way that suits me.

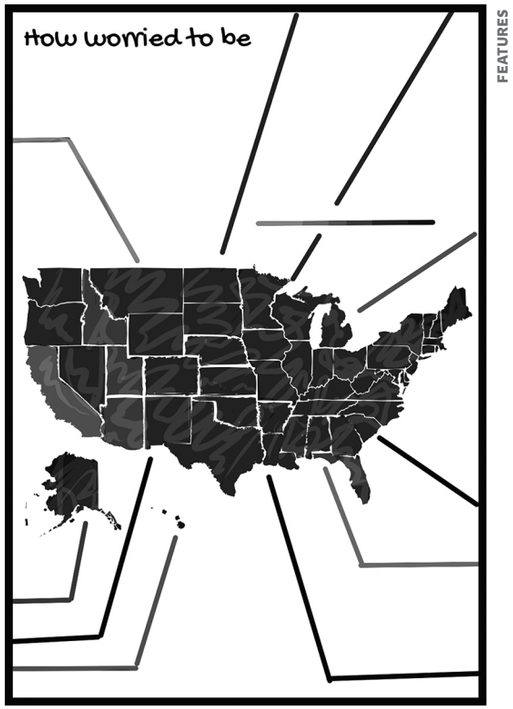
In my day-to-day life I experience color as the background noise of a language I cannot understand.

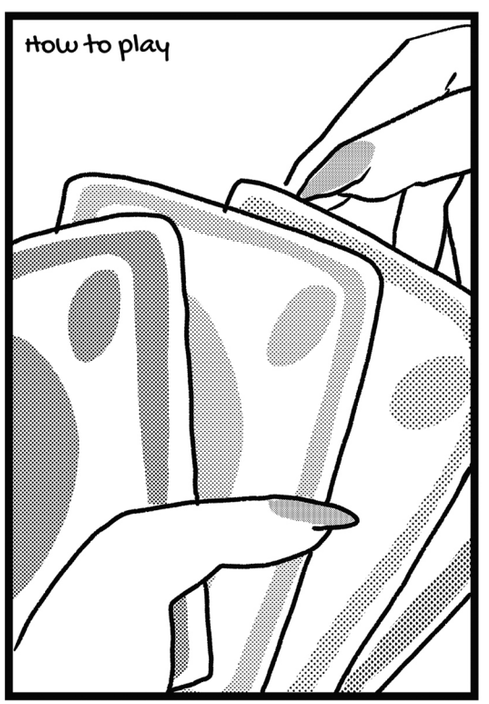

It's like walking around in a country where I'm unable to read the signs on the streets and buildings.

Or like a foreign soap opera I can get the gist of in a glance, but will surely miss all the subtleties.

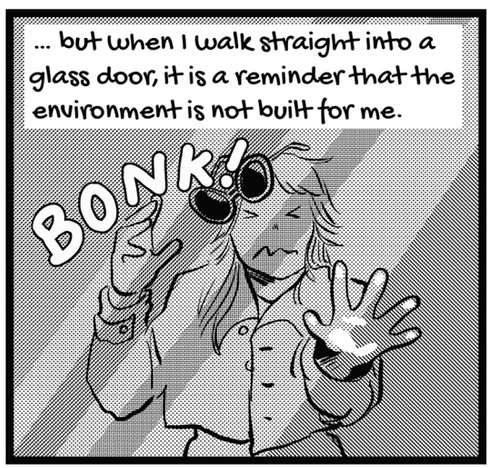

I tune it out until suddenly someone is yelling and I find myself confronted by information I need but can't parse.

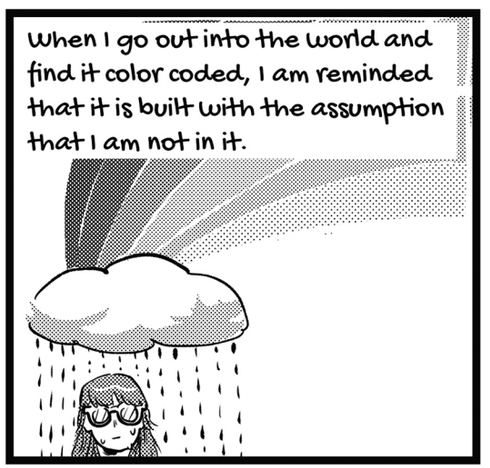

This is where colorblindness becomes a disabling experience: when I find myself unable to parse critical information. Color is used to tell me...
Where to go

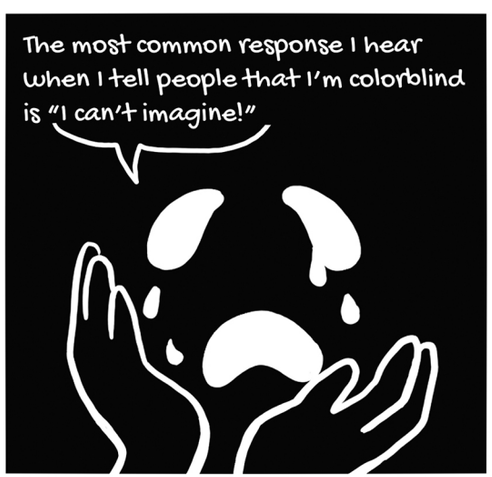

How worried to be


How to play

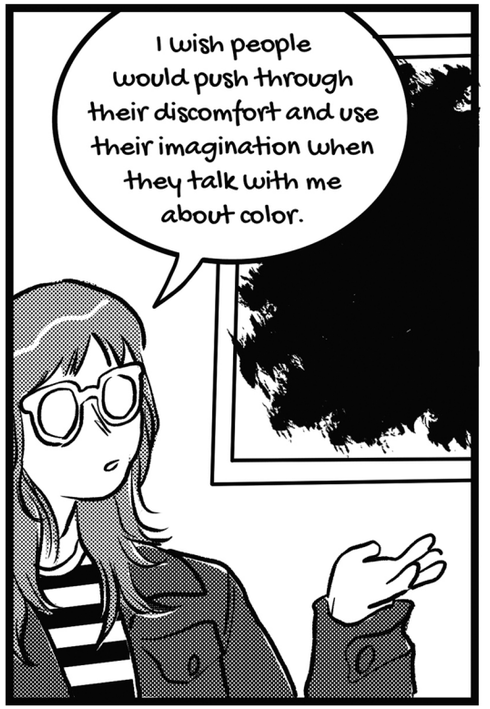
Where I belong

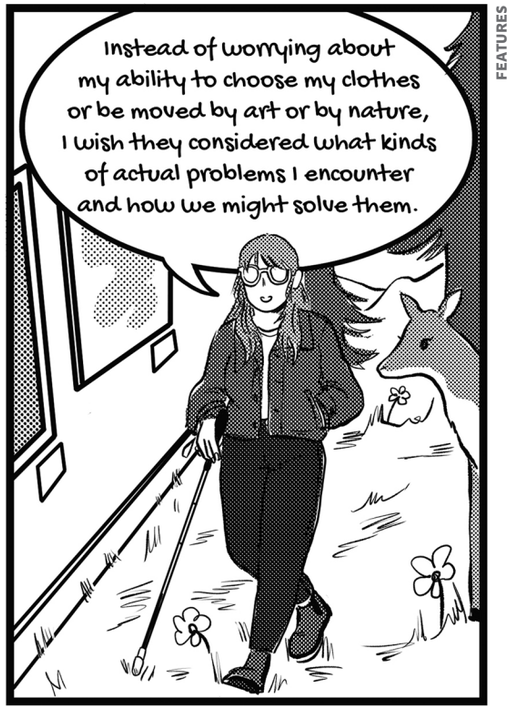


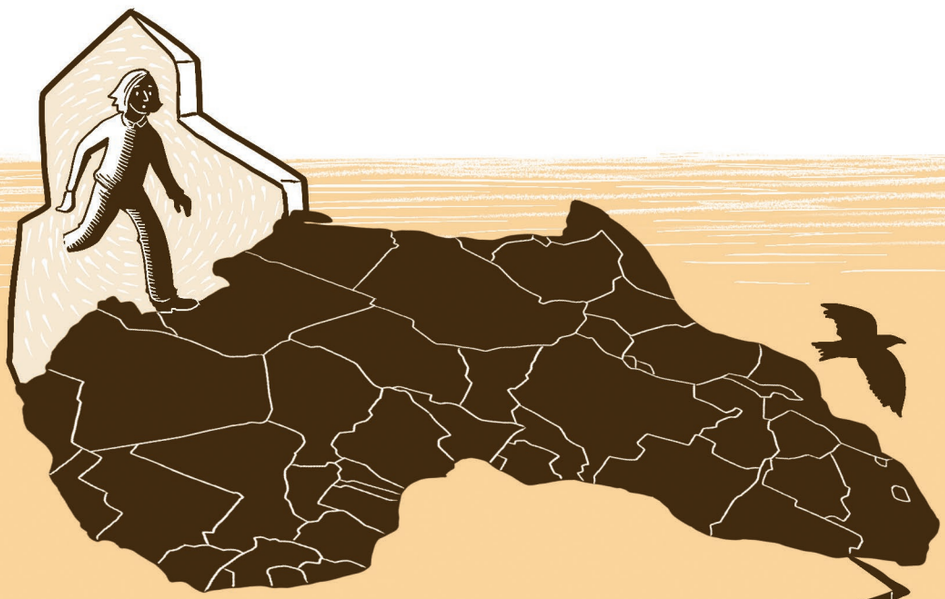




...and the lack of imagination is clear.





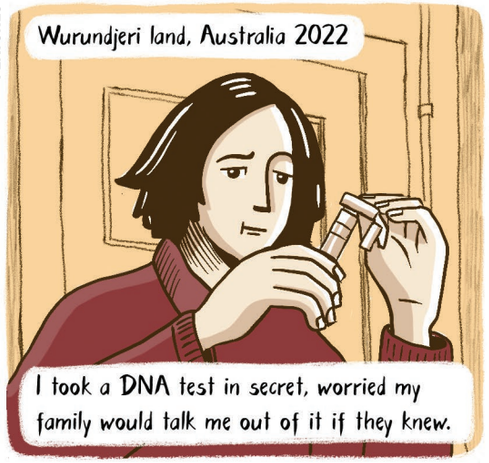


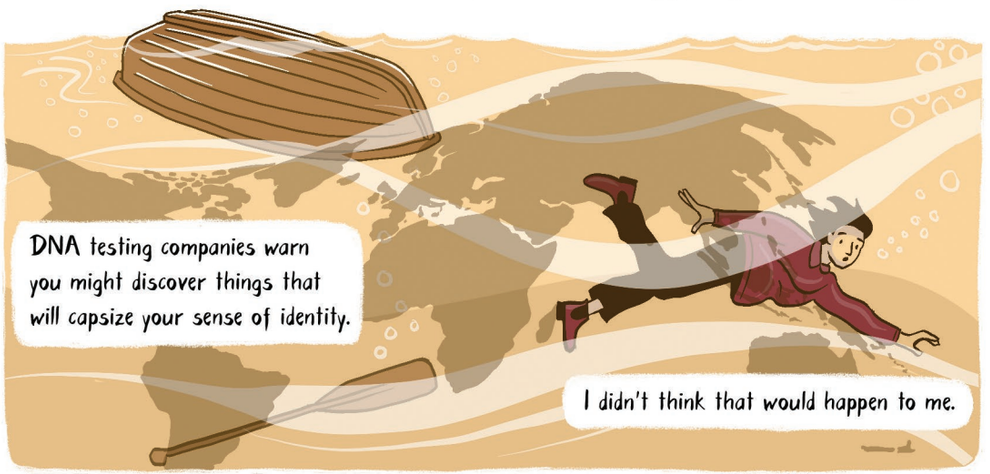
THE LIGHT *where the* DARK *came in*

AN ODYSSEY THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID

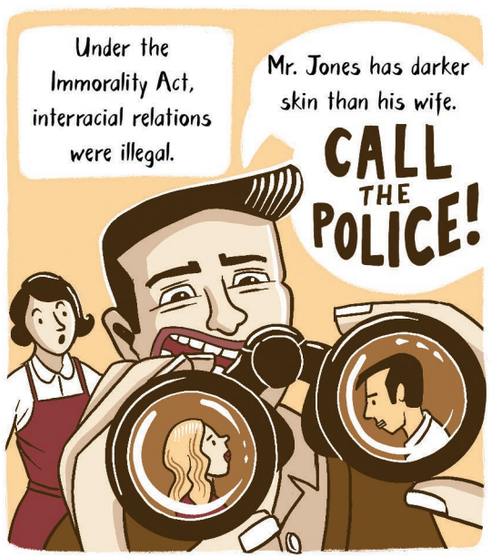
By Miranda Burton

For all who have been orphaned by history





*Indigenous Khoisan people were also in this category.



"How much milk was in the coffee" would determine your fate.

Identical twins could be deemed to be of different races.

White parents sometimes had dark-skinned children who were banned from white schools.

Black or colored parents sometimes had light-skinned children who were banned from black or colored schools.

IF YOUR CURLS COULD HOLD A PENCIL...

...then police could declare you had African heritage.

People were occasionally reclassified with no scientific basis. Families were torn apart.

Some colored people became white,

selected Asian nationals were "honorary whites,"

whites became Asians,

coloreds became blacks,

and blacks became coloreds.

No black person ever became white.

Television was banned until 1975 for fear that people would be exposed to "foreign political ideas" and images of interracial mixing in other countries.

Although the system was dismantled in 1994, the divides and inequalities of apartheid still exist in South Africa today.

Durban, Natal* 1953

In these festering divides and contradictions of social and political transition, my mum was one of thousands of white children raised in the care of African nannies.

BLOP BLOP

Maize porridge

*Now KwaZulu Natal

Exploitation of black African labor made it affordable for whites of any class to employ servants. Carrying an identity "pass," black laborers flooded into white neighborhoods every morning from their townships to work for a pittance.

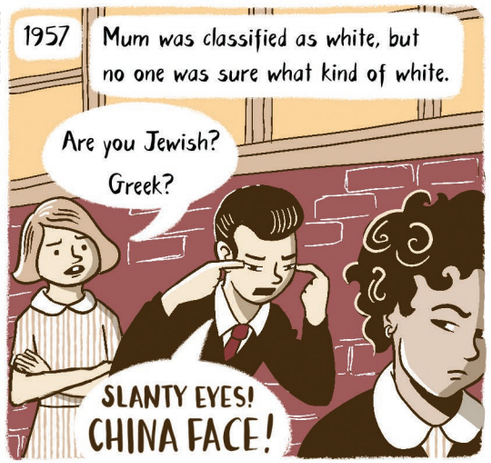
Without an approved pass, white people could get arrested visiting black townships.

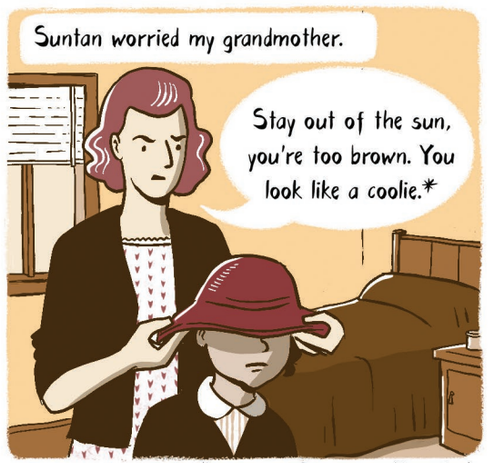
Here, Noni.

While black women raised white people's children...

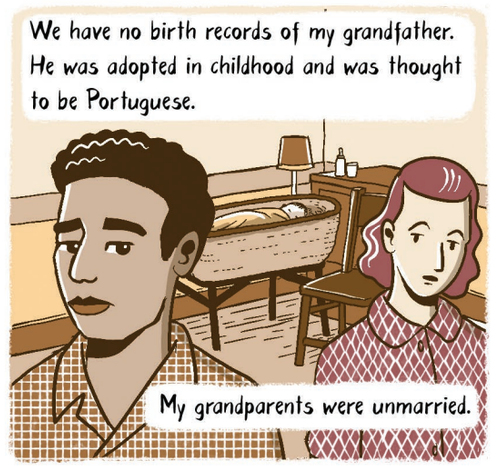
GO AWAY! YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. WHEN WILL YOU PEOPLE KNOW YOUR PLACE?

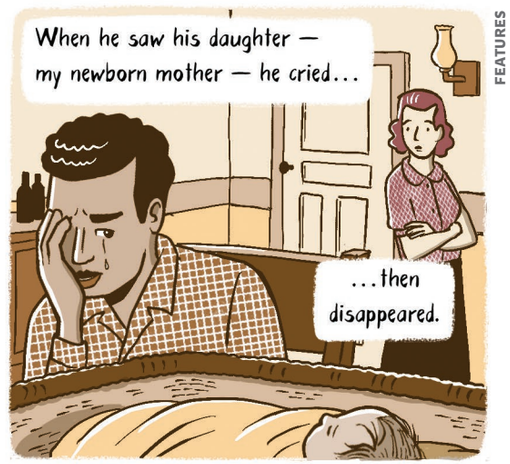
...their children were expected to be neither seen nor heard.

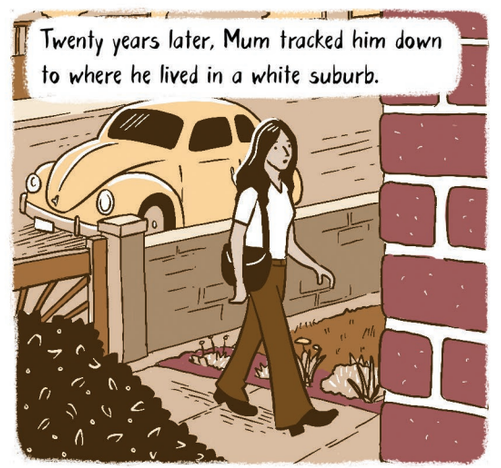


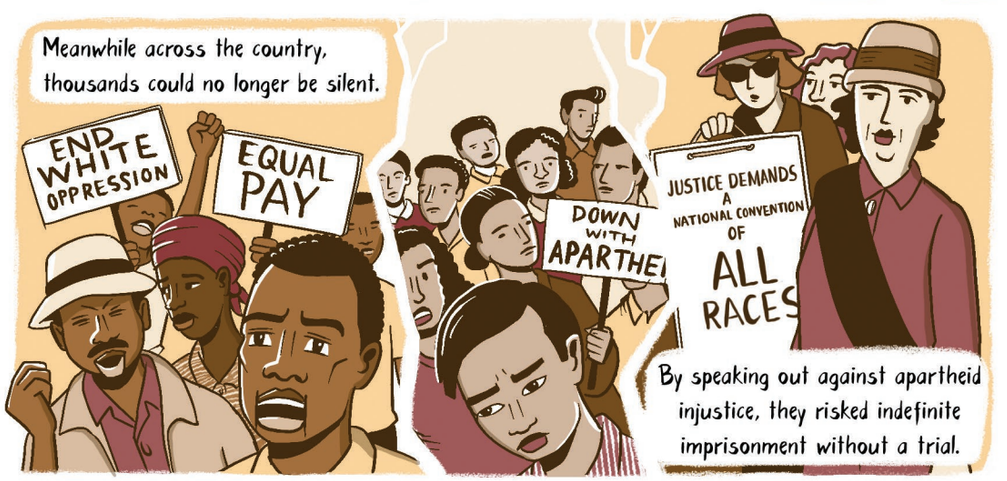


*someone of Asian origin (derogatory)









My parents married in 1970 and decided they did not want to raise children under a regime of "apart-hate."

They moved first to England, started a family in New Zealand, and after a few years we all moved to Australia.

But discomfort around my mother's identity followed her.

A real estate agent told my father:

I'm sorry Mr. Burton, we can't offer you this rental property. It's your wife — she's not *English*.

A Spanish-Filipino woman asked Mum:

You're a half-caste, aren't you?

Half-caste?

Another time two women visited her:

Sorry — my friend doesn't want to talk to you because you're not white.

What the hell? I'm white!

To understand my mother's ethnicity, we need to dig through centuries of history...

Starting in the 17th century, the Dutch condemned thousands of slaves to the Cape of Good Hope. Profiting from the Indian Ocean slave trade, they bought and bartered people largely from West, East, and Southern Africa, as well as Madagascar, India, and Southeast Asia.

Many did not survive the horrific voyage or brutal conditions under which they lived in South Africa.

In whitewashed colonial-settler history lessons my parents had learned that the Dutch colonist Jan van Riebeeck was the "father of the nation."

They failed to mention that many of the mothers were not European women.

It is no small irony that the colonists' sense of entitlement to exploit women of color consequently threatened the project of white supremacy.

Many female slaves have their "owners" listed as the father of their children, and/or were married to European men after being manumitted. Often ex-slaves bought their own slaves, and the cycle of expansion and demand for unpaid labor continued.

Slavery was abolished in 1834, but the exploitation of labor persisted until it was eventually institutionalized into the Apartheid laws.

When I called my mum, my eyes hovered over where I thought my "Portuguese" grandfather would be in my DNA timeline.

Mama?

Your father was not Portuguese.

As her father's origins became clear, Mum was painfully engulfed by South Africa's long racist history.

British & Irish
French & German
Southern East African
Ashkenazi Jewish

Soon afterwards, she had her own DNA test.

*A distant 1% Portuguese was identified on her maternal side.

Well, that explains why I've never been white enough to be white, black enough to be black, or brown enough to be colored or Asian.

IRISH
BRITISH
FRENCH GERMAN DUTCH
BALTIC SCANDINAVIAN
ASHKENAZI JEWISH PORTUGUESE
NIGERIAN CAMEROONIAN
CONGOLESE AKA MBUTI
KHOISAN SOTHO-TSWANA
SOUTHERN & WESTERN BANTU*
MALAGASY INDIAN
INDONESIAN FILIPINO
THAI/CAMBODIAN
TIMORESE

*Bantu: A broad ethnolinguistic group, not one ethnicity.

The DNA testing and genealogy have been powerful correctives to the false notions of who I am and where I come from.

Our DNA carries the forgotten legacy of slavery...

...a history we share with millions of other South Africans.

Scientists have revealed that underneath skin color and racial prejudice, we all share multiple ethnicities in an ancient lineage.

Looking at my family from around the world, I can start to see the world as my family. I try to hear some of their languages.

FRENCH: Je t'aime
ENGLISH: I love you
GERMAN: Ich liebe dich
AFRIKAANS: Ek het jou lief
XHOSA: Ndiya kuthanda
DUTCH: Ik houd van je
SESOTHO: Kea u rata
DANISH: Jeg elsker dig
ZULU: Ngiyakuthanda
KHOIKHOI: /Nam du ta ge a
YIDDISH: איך האב דיר ליב
SWEDISH: Jag älskar dig
SCOTTISH GAELIC: Tha gaol agam ort
LITHUANIAN: Aš tave myliu
WELSH: Rwy'n dy garu di
JAVANESE: Aku tresna sampeyan
TAGALOG: Mahal kita
IRISH GAELIC: Is breá liom tú
MALAY: Saya sayang awak
HINDI: मैं आपसे प्यार करती हूँ
HAUSA: Ina Sonki
TAMIL: நான் உன்னை நேசிக்கிறேன்
TETUN: Ha'u hadomi ita
MALAYALAM: ഞാൻ നിന്നെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നു
BENGALI: আমি তোমাকে ভালোবাসি
KIKONGO: Mono ke zola nge
PORTUGUESE: Eu te amo
MALAGASY: Tiako iano

Sacred traditions embrace all living beings as our family. Africans call this Ubuntu Botho, a philosophy of interconnectedness.

A person is a person through other people.

We can only be human together.

Comics Served Up on a Silver Platter

Illustration by Mark Kaufman

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THE NIB

Environmental Utopia

Can the Global Green Movement Deliver It to Us?

by Erlend Hjortland Sandøy

A greener and fairer future is possible.

In one way or another, environmentalists have been fighting for it for a long time.

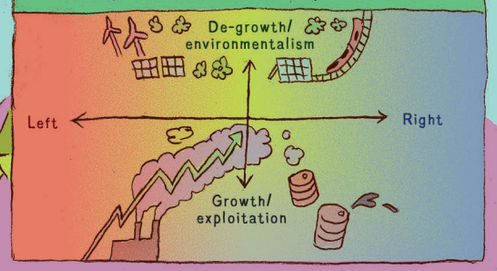
And the prices they have paid for fighting have been high.

In the '70s and '80s, some gained footing with a new strategy: vying for political power under green banners.

"Experience teaches us that governments are only moved to take environmental problems seriously when people vote for environmental political parties."
—Preface to Final Statement of the First Planetary Meeting of the Global Greens in Rio de Janeiro, 31 May 1992

Green parties have origins in a broad variety of grassroots movements, and their ideologies span left, right, and beyond.

Many of them talk of a new political axis:



Today, Greens are a force to be reckoned with in both local and national elections across the world.

The Green Party of the United States has garnered millions of votes in federal elections but holds no seats in Congress due to the country's winner-takes-all electoral system.

Greens are power players in some American countries and currently take part in governing left-wing coalitions and alliances in...

Mexico (since 2019)

Colombia (since 2022)

and Brazil (as of 2023).

In Europe you can find Greens in most places and in governing coalitions with parties across the political spectrum. They hold particular sway in Western European countries with proportional representation.

Nations with Green parties currently in executive power as of 2022:

Iceland

Finland

Ireland

Germany

Belgium

Austria

Luxembourg

and Montenegro.

While there are relatively few Green parties in Asia, there is a strong presence in Anglo-Oceanic countries.

The Mongolian Greens (Монголын Ногоон Нам) are the oldest Green party in Asia (founded in 1990).

They governed with social democrats and liberals from 1996 to 2000,

and are credited for enshrining "the right to live in a healthy and safe environment" into the Mongolian constitution.

Several countries in Africa have seen Greens take power.

The Kenyan Greens (Mazingira) governed with the conservatives, social democrats, and liberals from 2002 to 2005.

Its founder, Wangari Maathai, also started the Green Belt Movement, which is responsible for planting over 50 million trees in Kenya.

The Brazilian Greens (Partido Verde) were co-founded by anti-dictatorship revolutionary Fernando Gabeira (who once kidnapped the American ambassador).

They governed with the Workers' Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) from 2003 to 2005, at which point the rate of Amazon deforestation dropped to its lowest point in two decades.

The Rwandan Greens (Parti vert démocratique du Rwanda) currently hold two out of 80 seats in parliament, the first opposition party to hold seats under President Paul Kagame's reign.

The Australian Greens have been the third-most popular party in every federal election since 2016.

The Kiwi Greens (Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand) are the successors of the world's oldest federal Green party and have governed with the social democrats since 2017.

In a time when the existential threat of climate change only becomes greater with every passing year,

Green parties often press that worldwide transition to renewable energy cannot wait until it becomes immediately profitable.

And through power and pressure at both local and national levels, Greens have achieved increased funding for renewables and low-emission infrastructure in several countries.

Their efforts to phase out fossil fuels have yielded more mixed results...

When the seven-year reign of the German Greens (Bündnis 90/die Grünen) and the social democrats were over in 2005,

phase-out targets for nuclear power were approved,

and wind power was on the rise,

but the country's heavy dependence on coal and gas remained largely unchanged.

That year, nine of the 30 most harmful coal plants in Europe were found in Germany.

The Irish Greens (Comhaontas Glas) supported a mass movement against Shell's development of offshore gas fields,

yet went along with the plans once they entered into a coalition with a conservative government in 2007.

In 2020, they joined a new liberal-conservative government on a coalition platform that would not revoke any existing licenses for oil and gas exploration.

Some Greens have enacted fossil fuel phase-out targets, like the 2019 Zero Carbon Act co-written by Kiwi Greens,

which sets a target for New Zealand to have net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050.

But targets can change as governments change.

If a coalition doesn't end contracts, revoke licenses, or in other ways drastically reduce pollution from fossil fuel industries while in power,

it is complicit in accelerating climate change, regardless of how many wind turbines or bike paths were built simultaneously.

Nonviolence is another central principle of Green politics. Many of the parties have roots in Cold War peace movements.

Today, war and interventions have become divisive issues among Greens.

Nowhere is this clearer than with the German Greens. For much of its early existence, the party was pacifist and called for the dissolution of all military pacts and interventions.

But by the time the party joined the government in 1998, the "fundis" (fundamentalists) had lost favor to the "realos" (realists).

One year later the Greens backed military intervention in the Balkans, which marked the first active participation of German soldiers in combat since World War II.

This caused an activist to throw red paint on the Green then-Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer at a party convention. Later the Greens would also support the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Dutch Greens (GroenLinks) were the only party in Dutch parliament to oppose the Gulf War, but the ensuing internal debate moderated the party's policy on interventions.

The French Greens (les Verts) backed the 1999 NATO military intervention in Kosovo. They were split on the issue of the Libyan invasion, but supported President Hollande's 2013 air strikes in Syria.

Green politicians have themselves been victims of political violence and intimidation.

The Rwandan Greens have been suppressed for most of their existence. Most notably, their vice president was found decapitated during the 2010 presidential election campaign.

The Green parties of Georgia (Sak'art'velos mtsvanet'a partia) and Pakistan (پاکستان گرین پارٹی) have both experienced attacks, including unsolved killings of members and detaining of leadership.

MAREA VERDE RISING

Unstoppable Latin American activists made green the color of abortion rights—now, the U.S. needs the "green wave" more than ever.

Text by Sarah Shay Mirk ✱ Art by Laura Athayde

Bogotá, Colombia
February 21, 2022

"We spent a long time waiting for the decision."

"We had gone to the court each week, wondering if this would be the day they decided."

Valeria Pedraza had spent the last three years as an attorney for human rights group Women's Link (which is part of Colombian abortion rights coalition Causa Justa), fighting to legalize abortion in Colombia. Until very recently, abortion was illegal across almost all of the heavily Catholic countries in Latin America.

In Colombia in 2006, the Constitutional Court legalized abortion only in cases of rape, incest, fetal nonviability, and to save the life of the mother. Now, thanks to activism and advocacy from Causa Justa, the court was weighing whether to legalize abortion entirely—a huge change.

We need safe, legal, free abortion.

As the case worked through court, Colombia's pro-choice marches grew massive. And supporters of abortion rights all wore the same symbol: a green pañuelo.

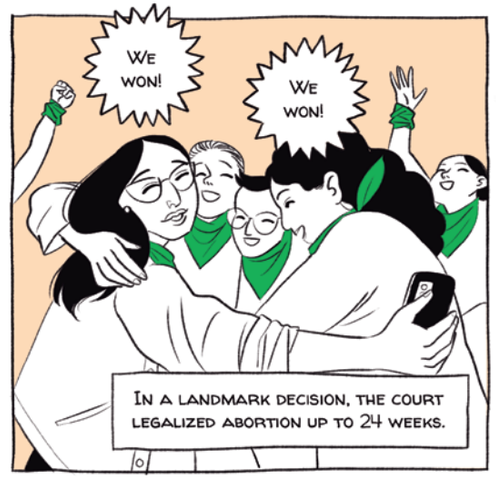
"We did sit-ins with women planted in front of the court. We always brought green handkerchiefs to give away."

"Often women who weren't part of the protest would ask for them."

I want to give one to a friend.

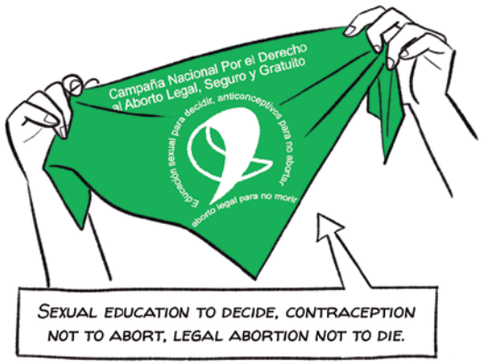
"It shows solidarity. It's important for women to see that: 'We support you.'"

"It also changes the perception of who supports abortion. The movement brought together all these voices with a clear, strong message: decriminalize abortion."



Green pañuelos became the symbol of abortion rights far to the south of Colombia, in Argentina, another historically Catholic Latin American nation where providing or receiving an abortion carried a stiff prison sentence. In 1998, Argentina's president declared an official "Day of the Unborn Child."

Activists with Argentina's National Campaign for Legal, Safe, and Free Abortion started wearing green pañuelos in 2003, tying abortion to other reproductive rights issues.



Sexual education to decide, contraception not to abort, legal abortion not to die.

Green was meant to be a hopeful and defiant color choice to represent abortion.

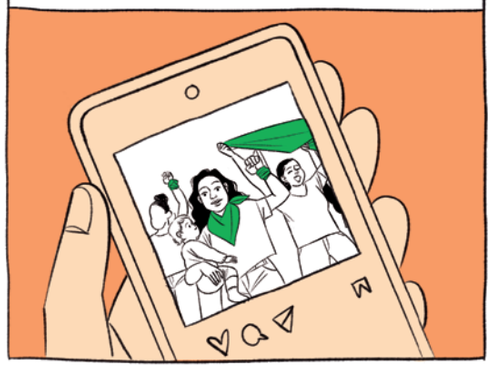
Marta Alanís, founder of the Argentinian branch of Catholics for the Right to Decide, quoted in *Le Monde*.

The headscarf references a historic movement: the mothers who protested the disappearance and murders of their children under Argentina's military dictatorship.

Tens of thousands of left-wing youths were kidnapped and killed in the 1970s and '80s. Risking arrest and torture, their mothers would wear white scarves and gather in Buenos Aires' Plaza de Mayo, demanding to know what the government had done to their children.

The Madres de Plaza de Mayo built a moral resistance against the dictatorship that led to the restoration of democracy. Pro-choice activists tied their cause to that history.

As Argentina's pro-choice movement grew, images of the green pañuelo spread.



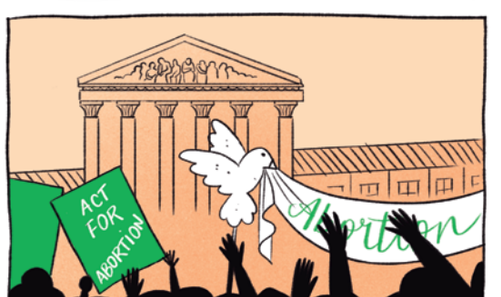
Activists led frequent protests for abortion rights across Latin America—a "green wave" flooded the streets.

And politicians took notice.

In January 2021, Argentina's federal government made abortion legal up to 14 weeks.

Argentina President Alberto Fernández

A few months later, Mexico's supreme court ruled that it was unconstitutional to make abortion a crime.



At the same time as these gains in Latin America, the United States has hurtled catastrophically in the opposite direction with the end of federally protected abortion rights.

Facing a future of fighting for rights on a state-by-state basis, American activists looked south for tactics and inspiration. The green wave has spread.

paolamendoza

This week we took to the streets to fight for abortion access and bodily autonomy. Tonight in Philadelphia we reclaimed the sky with drones to share the message #AbortionIsFreedom

Activists cover anti-abortion billboard with pro-choice message

"We refuse to stand by as radical evangelicals and political blowhards exploit birthing people in a shameful grab for power… We will protest, disrupt, and will vote those out of power who do not fight for us."

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM ABORTION

In July, after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, an anonymous activist group in Detroit covered an anti-abortion billboard in green.

WE WILL AID AND ABET ABORTION

In any language, the color green now sends a message.

ABORTO LIBRE

Pink for Ladies

THE HISTORY AND SCIENCE OF GENDERED COLORS

ALLY SHWED

COLOR-CODING GENDER THROUGH COMMERCE

PINK IS FOR GIRLS. BLUE IS FOR BOYS.

FOR SOME GLOBALIZED SOCIETIES, LIKE THE U.S. AND MUCH OF EUROPE, THIS IS CANON.

BUT THIS "RULE" DIDN'T ALWAYS EXIST. IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THERE WERE NO ESTABLISHED COLOR-GENDER ASSOCIATIONS.

WHITE DRESSES WERE THE LONGSTANDING GENDER-NEUTRAL NORM FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN UNDER SIX.

PART OF IT WAS PRACTICALITY. WHITE COULD EASILY BE BLEACHED, AND DRESSES WERE CONVENIENT FOR DIAPERS.

PART OF IT WAS BECAUSE MANUFACTURERS COULDN'T AGREE ON WHAT COLORS WERE "MASCULINE" OR "FEMININE."

WHITE DRESSES EVOLVED TO PASTELS, WITH SPECIFIC HUES RECOMMENDED BY MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS BASED ON HAIR AND EYE COLOR.

BY COLOR-CODING CHILDREN'S ITEMS, THEY COULD LIKELY SELL MORE.

BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, RECOMMENDATIONS BECAME EVEN MORE SPECIFIC.

BOY OR GIRL?

AND SO, WE START TO SEE THE ROOT OF THESE GENDER CONSTRUCTS...

COMMERCIALIZATION!

BY 1927, RECOMMENDATIONS BECAME COMPLICATED ENOUGH FOR *TIME* MAGAZINE TO PUBLISH A CHART:

COLORS FOR CHILDREN

STORE	BOYS	GIRLS
FILENE'S	PINK	BLUE
MACY'S	BLUE	PINK
WANAMAKER'S	BLUE	PINK
MARSHALL FIELD'S	PINK	BLUE
MAISON BLANCHE	PINK	BLUE
BULLOCK'S	BLUE	PIN

BY THE 1940s, MANUFACTURERS INTERPRETED CUSTOMERS' PREFERENCES AND MARKETED ACCORDINGLY.

GIRLS' DEPARTMENT

BOYS' DEPARTMEN

A FEW KEY FEMALE POP CULTURE ICONS IN THE 1950s BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH PINK.

WE GOTTA CASH IN ON THIS!

ADVERTISERS BEGAN MARKETING THE COLOR AS EXPRESSLY FEMININE.

PINK!

MARILYN MONROE + MAMIE EISENHOWER

BUT...

...*SCIENCE* HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ON THE MATTER!

EARLY STUDIES THAT EXPLORED HOW HUMAN EYES BIOLOGICALLY SAW COLOR LED 20TH-CENTURY THEORISTS TO EXAMINE SOME OF THE **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASPECTS.

THERE ARE UNIVERSAL PREFERENCES AMONG HUMANS FOR SOME COLORS OVER OTHERS!

A CRITICAL & EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF COLOUR PREFERENCES

HJ EYSENCK

IN 2007, TWO SCIENTISTS APPLIED THIS "UNIVERSAL PREFERENCE" THEORY TO **SEX**.

FEMALE GATHERERS IDENTIFIED EDIBLE FLORA BY THEIR RED HUE. THEY'D NEED TO BE MORE AWARE OF REDS AND PINKS THAN MALE HUNTERS.

AND SUBTLE CHANGES IN SKIN COLOR DUE TO SEXUAL STATES COULD BE LINKED WITH WOMEN'S EVOLUTIONARY ROLE AS CAREGIVER.

BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF SEX DIFFERENCES IN COLOR PREFERENCE

OUR MODERN SUBJECTS BACK THIS UP.

THEY DEMONSTRATE ROBUST SEX DIFFERENCES IN COLOR PREFERENCE, CONSISTENT WITH THE EVOLUTION OF SEX-SPECIFIC BEHAVIORAL USES OF TRICHROMACY.

IN OTHER WORDS, FEMALES AND MALES ARE BIOLOGICALLY INCLINED TO LIKE CERTAIN COLORS!

LING

BUT THIS RESEARCH GATHERED INFORMATION FROM A MAJORITY BRITISH POPULATION, WITH ONLY A SMALL CHINESE SUBSET. IT LACKED **DIVERSITY**. A FEW YEARS LATER, A DIFFERENT GROUP OF SCIENTISTS CONDUCTED A NEW STUDY.

BRITISH | SAUDI | ARCHIS | HIMBA

THEY PUBLISHED THEIR FINDINGS IN 2011, AND THE TITLE SAYS IT ALL:

BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF COLOR PREFERENCE ARE NOT UNIVERSAL

IN 2021, YET ANOTHER STUDY WAS PUBLISHED, THIS TIME SPECIFICALLY TESTING PREFERENCES FOR PINK AND BLUE IN CHILDREN FROM MORE DIVERSE SOCIETIES.

the Shipibo-Conibo
Lake Imiria, Peru

Kastom tribes
Tanna Island, Vanuatu

the Bayaka
Northern Republic of Congo

City dwellers
Brisbane, Australia

THE RESULT?

CULTURAL COM... OF SEX DIFFERENCES IN COLOR PREFEREN...

IN BRISBANE, GIRLS LIKED PINK MORE THAN BOYS...

...BUT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS' AND GIRLS' PREFERENCES IN PERU, VANUATU, AND THE CONGO.

THE PAIRING OF FEMALE AND PINK IS ***CULTURAL*** AND ***NOT*** DRIVEN BY INNATE PREFERENCE.

HISTORY SUPPORTS THIS THEORY. AFTER THE BABY BOOMERS GREW UP IN BLUE AND PINK, SECOND-WAVE FEMINISM IN THE **1960s** CHALLENGED SUCH GENDER CODING. RETAIL REFLECTED THIS FOR A SHORT WHILE.

SEARS ROEBUCK

BUT THE **1970s** SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRENATAL TESTING.

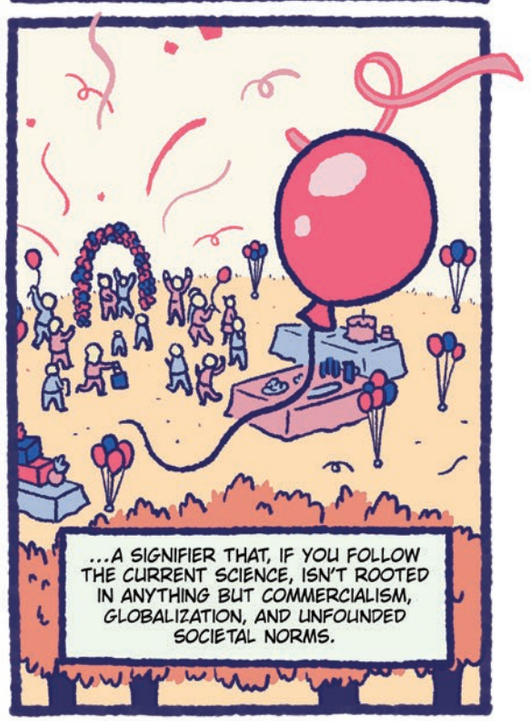
WE CAN NOW TELL YOU THE GENDER OF YOUR FUTURE BABY!

RETAILERS SAW AN OPPORTUNITY. GENDERED BABY ITEMS APPEARED ON THE MARKET AGAIN.

THE TREND CONTINUED TO SPREAD. IN THE 1990s, IT WAS PROMINENTLY SEEN IN TOYS.
TOYZ-4-YO
TOUGH BUY
GIRLS
BOYS
SALE
PINK BLOX

AND TODAY, IT'S EVIDENT IN A NEW CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE GENDER REVEAL.

DESPITE MANY PEOPLE STILL TRYING TO BREAK GENDER BINARIES, WE'RE RIGHT BACK AT COLOR CODING...
MY FIRST SCIENCE KIT


...A SIGNIFIER THAT, IF YOU FOLLOW THE CURRENT SCIENCE, ISN'T ROOTED IN ANYTHING BUT COMMERCIALISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND UNFOUNDED SOCIETAL NORMS.

Morena:
COLORISM IN THE PHILIPPINES
BY APOLLO BALTAZAR
LOTTERY
MOST IF NOT ALL FILIPINOS, BOTH NATIVE AND DIASPORA, KNOW THE YEARNING FOR PALE SKIN.

IF YOU LOOK IN THE BEAUTY SECTION OF ANY FILIPINO STORE, YOU'LL SEE THE SHELVES LITTERED WITH ITEMS MEANT TO LIGHTEN THE SKIN.

GLUTATHIONE, VITAMIN C, PAPAYA EXTRACT...

CONSUMERS FLOCK TO THESE PRODUCTS IN HOPES OF WHITENING, AND THEREFORE BEAUTIFYING, THEIR COMPLEXION.

YOU WILL OFTEN HEAR MOTHERS SCOLDING THEIR CHILDREN FOR BEING OUTSIDE IN THE SUN TOO LONG, THAT THEY WILL GET DARK.

WHY DO WE RESENT THE SKIN THAT OUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY FOR?

DID I WANT TO BE LIKE MY PRETTIER, LIGHTER–SKINNED PEERS?

COLORISM IS A RAMPANT ISSUE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

BETWEEN TFC AND GMA SHOWS, YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEE COSMETIC ADS WITH HIGH–PROFILE, BEAUTIFUL CELEBRITIES WITH ALREADY LIGHT SKIN ADVERTISING PRODUCTS FOR SKIN–WHITENING.

ON POSTERS, YOU SEE WHOEVER IS THE NEW FACE OF BELO BEAUTY PROUDLY SHOWING OFF A NEW CREAM PROMISING TO BRIGHTEN COMPLEXIONS.

ON INSTAGRAM, YOU SEE ALL YOUR FAVORITE HALF–WHITE ARTISTAS SHOWING OFF THEIR NATURALLY PALE SKIN TO THOUSANDS OF ENVIOUS FILIPINO YOUTH WHO WANT TO BE JUST LIKE THEM.

EVEN IN FAMILIES, YOU WILL FREQUENTLY HEAR A TITA TRYING TO RECOMMEND YOU A NEW BEAUTY PRODUCT.

OR A NINONG POKING FUN AT YOUR DARK SKIN, CALLING YOU A MORENA.

AS A YOUTH, I TRIED TO BE LIKE THOSE BEAUTIFUL LIGHT–SKINNED CELEBRITIES.

I ALWAYS CHOSE SKINCARE ITEMS THAT PROMISED BRIGHTENING EFFECTS, OR MAKEUP PRODUCTS THAT WOULD BE A TOUCH TOO LIGHT FOR MY SKIN.

IT WASN'T JUST MY SKIN.
MY RELATIVES WOULD PRAISE MY NOSE.

THEY'D OFTEN JOKE ABOUT WHICH OF MY PARENTS I GOT IT FROM BECAUSE IT WASN'T FLAT LIKE THEIRS.

THEY'D PINCH IT, TELLING ME TO PRESERVE THIS PART OF ME.

THE DESIRE FOR WHITE SKIN AND WHITE FEATURES GOES DEEP INTO OUR HISTORY. HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF COLONIAL RULE HAVE BECOME EMBEDDED DEEP INTO THE PSYCHE OF EVERY FILIPINO.

EUROCENTRIC FEATURES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IDOLIZED – THE COLONIAL MENTALITY STILL PREVALENT TODAY.

PEOPLE WITH LIGHT SKIN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PRIVILEGED THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THE COLOR OF ONE'S SKIN TONE MANIFESTED ITSELF IN NUMEROUS WAYS:

UNFAIR, 'DI BA? 'WAG MAGALIT, MAG-GLUTAMAX!

IN WORK,

IN BEAUTY,

AND IN SOCIAL HIERARCHY.

IT WAS A SYMBOL OF THE HIGHER CLASS IN ASIA EVEN BEFORE THE EUROPEANS. LIGHTER SKIN MEANT YOU DID NOT HAVE TO LABOR IN THE SUN.

EVEN IN FICTIONAL STORIES,

THE VILLAINS WERE OFTEN DEPICTED AS DARK, AND THE HEROES WERE ALWAYS BRIGHT, SHINING BEACONS OF LIGHT.

I'VE REALLY ONLY KNOWN A HANDFUL OF FILIPINOS AT ALL THE SCHOOLS I'VE BEEN TO. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND EVEN COLLEGE.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, ONE OF THE FEW FILIPINO PEERS I HAD WAS A GIRL IN MY DANCE CLASS.

I THOUGHT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL. SHE HAD PALE SKIN.

I SPOKE TO HER ONCE ABOUT SKIN WHITENING AMONG FILIPINOS DURING A SHORT BREAK IN CLASS.

SHE TOOK GLUTATHIONE PILLS AT THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HER FAMILY SINCE SHE WANTED TO BECOME AN ARTISTA IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SHE REGRETTED IT.

SHE TOLD ME SHE MISSED HER TAN SKIN.

SHE TOLD ME SHE MISSED "LOOKING LIKE A FILIPINO."

SHE COULDN'T GO IN THE SUN ANYMORE BECAUSE OF THE SKIN–WHITENING.

I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HER SINCE WE GRADUATED.

"THAT COULD'VE BEEN ME."

I ALWAYS THINK THAT WHEN I REMEMBER THAT ENCOUNTER FROM YEARS AGO.

BUT I THINK ABOUT ALL THE TIMES I WISHED I WAS LIKE THE SEEMINGLY PERFECT CELEBRITIES ON TELEVISION,

WITH THEIR BRIGHT SKIN, BIG BROWN EYES, ARCHED NOSES, AND CHISELED JAWS.

I WANTED TO BE LIKE THEM.

I WANTED THEIR LIGHT SKIN.

I WANTED TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

I'M MORE CONTENT WITH MYSELF THESE DAYS.

MY SKIN IS A REMINDER OF WHO MY ANCESTORS WERE, WHAT THEY FOUGHT FOR, AND WHAT I REPRESENT AS A FILIPINO AMERICAN.

AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THAT ANYMORE.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS CHROME

A BRIGHT-YELLOW PIGMENT MADE WITH CHROMIUM. IT WAS DESIGNATED AS THE OFFICIAL U.S. SCHOOL BUS COLOR DUE TO ITS VIBRANCE AND VISIBILITY.

IT WAS SOON FOUND TO BE GENOTOXIC (DIRECTLY TOXIC TO DNA) AND WAS PROMPTLY SWITCHED – BUT THE DAMAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE TO THE WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN EXPOSED.

STRIPS

Emil Wilson

All of my problematic relationships as told through paint swatches by Emil Wilson

Roommate

- College Dormitory 0904-0704
- (Too Much) Weed 6100-6827
- Vomit in Garbage Can 4426-7718

College girlfriend

- Unlit Match 2121-2369
- Uncomfortable Nudity 0208-2712
- You're Ordering an Apple Martini? 4001-8701

Dated: 4 months

- Super Beige 0301-1711
- Dullness 0101-1018
- Surprisingly Excellent in Bedroom 0112-9901

- Overwhelming Paperwork 0101-0504
- Zoom Background 4912-0001
- Unsuccessful Brown Nosing 5376-6922

- Hoarding Closet 3557-0001
- Manipulative Tears 2201-0101
- Delicate Digestion 0135-5101

Dated: 1 month

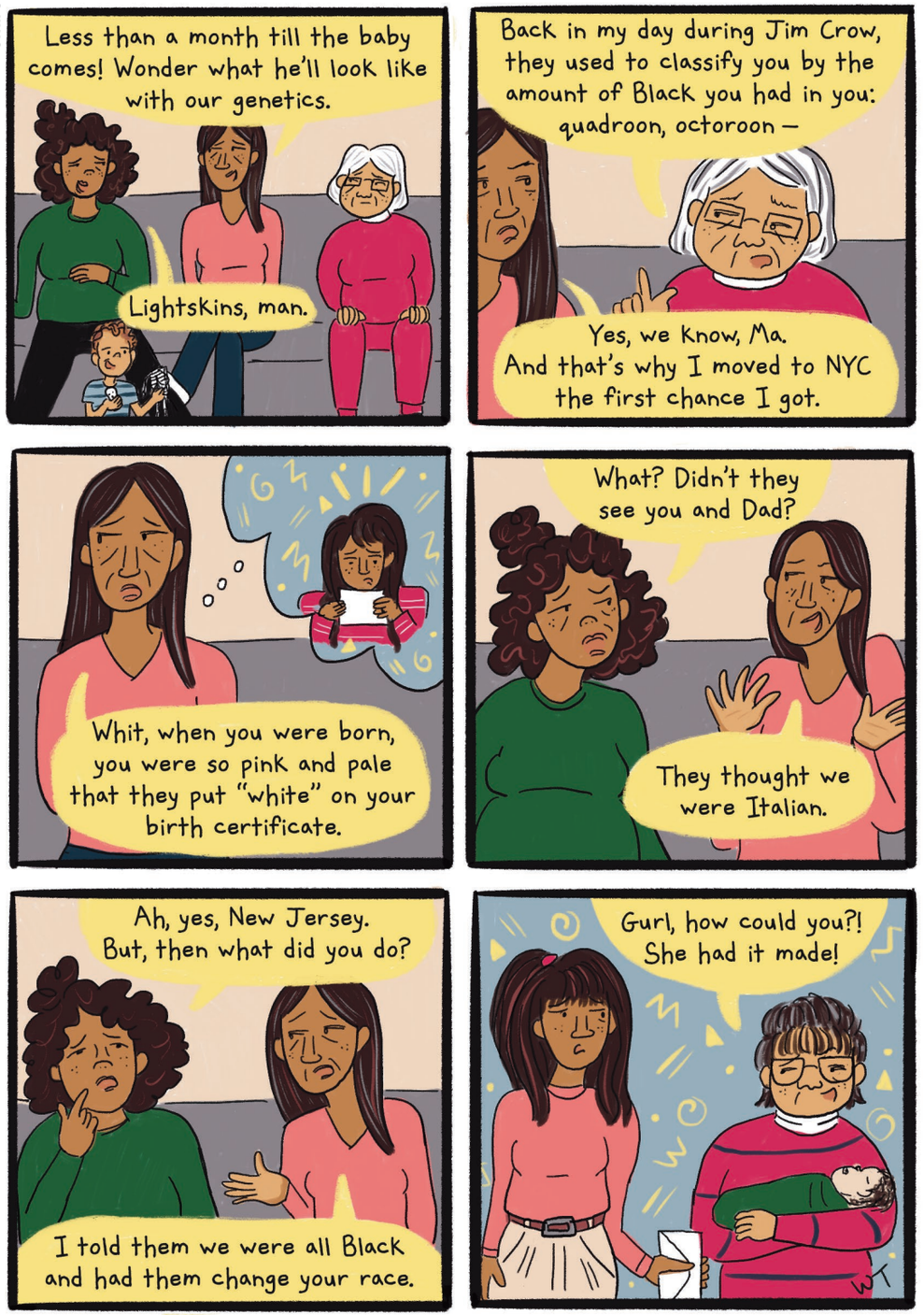
- Silver Fox 0001-0923
- Sexy Leather Jacket 1021-0089
- Thoughtful Republican (But a Republican Nonetheless) 0099-9927

- Straining Denim 1300-0001
- Kale Exhaustion 9131-8862
- Secret Brownie 1868-9172

- Unexpected Bill 1305-1601
- Empty Wallet 1721-2068
- Frugal Weekend 3300-4201

- Grateful Urination 1106-5601
- Why Is *Everyone* Dying? 0700-0992
- Clean Dentures 0562-1101

Whit Taylor



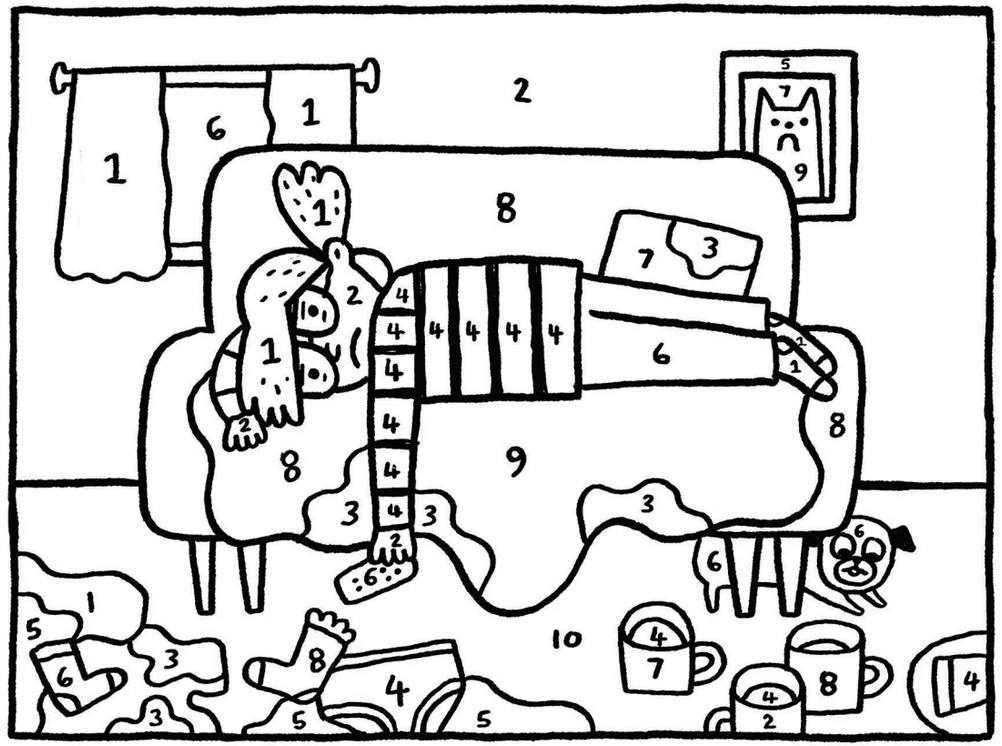
KC Green

Mattie Lubchansky

Gemma Correll

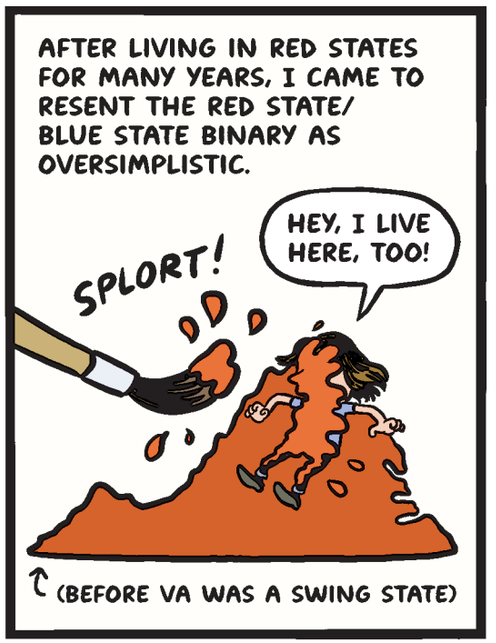
THE NO FUN PAGE

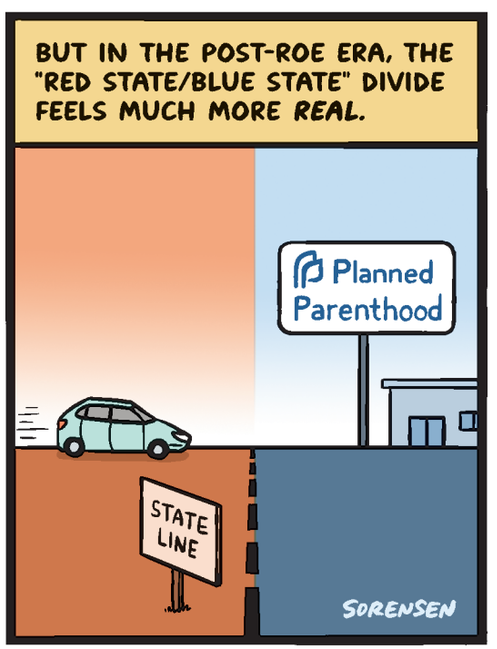
COLOR-BY-NUMBERS 'DEPRESSION DEN'



1. UNWASHED PEBBLE
2. PALLID CHINCHILLA
3. MYSTERY STAIN GRAY
4. TAUPE SLUDGE
5. FLOORDROBE ONYX
6. MIDNIGHT ABYSS
7. TARNISHED DREAMS
8. MISERABLE PORPOISE
9. SILVERITALOPRAM
10. JUST... WHATEVER. WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS ANYWAY?

Red State Blue State





PANTONE COLORS OF (MY) YEAR

PANTONE 726: DISPIRITING UNDERARM FLUBBER

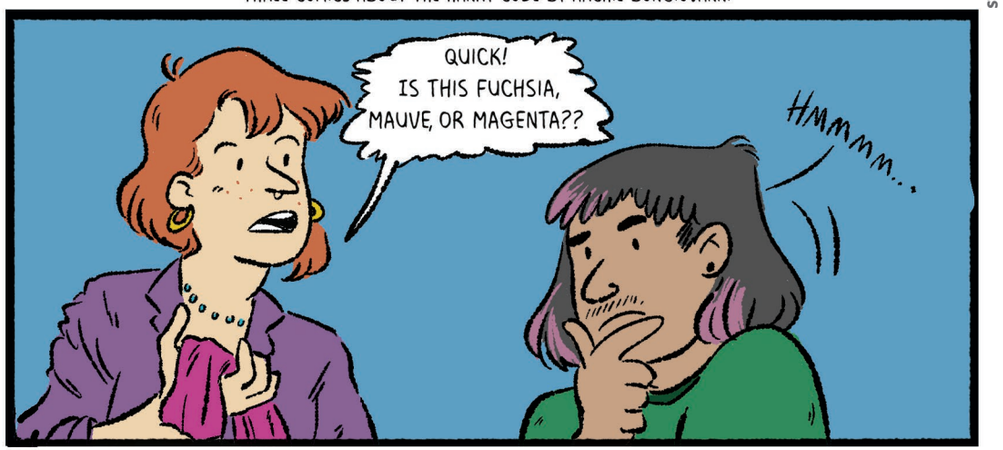
PANTONE 704: THE DULL THUMP OF PETTY RAGE AT SOME BULLSHIT HOUSEKEEPING INFRACTION

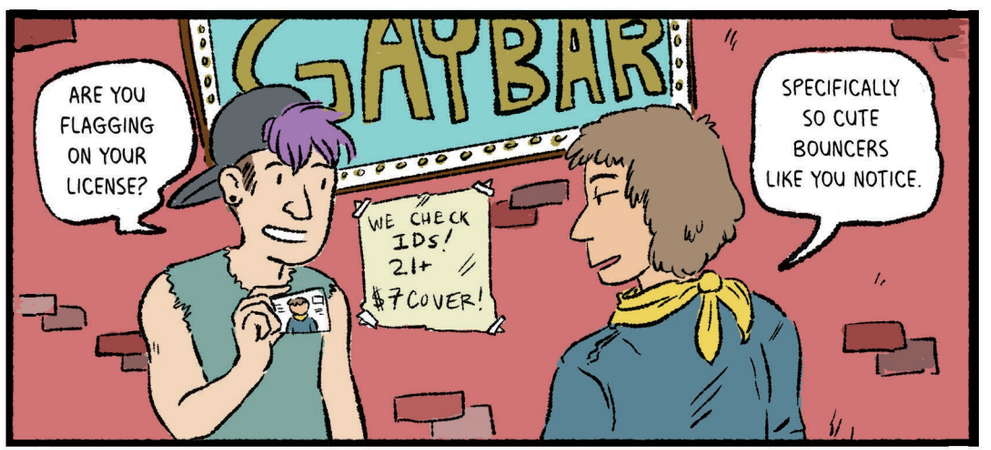
PANTONE 655: THE COLOR OF MY CEILING AT 3AM

PANTONE 537: THE FOGGY LANDSCAPE WHERE MY BRAIN USED TO BE

IS THAT A HANDKERCHIEF IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YOU JUST HAPPY TO SEE ME?

THREE COMICS ABOUT THE HANKY CODE BY ARCHIE BONGIOVANNI





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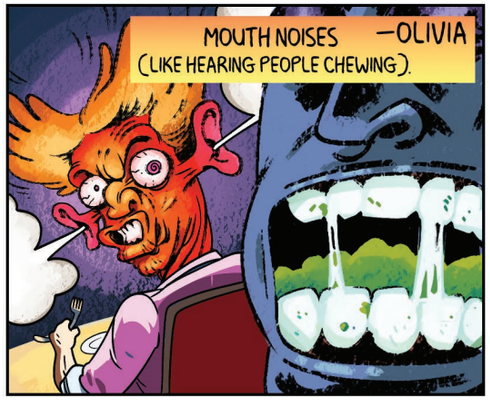
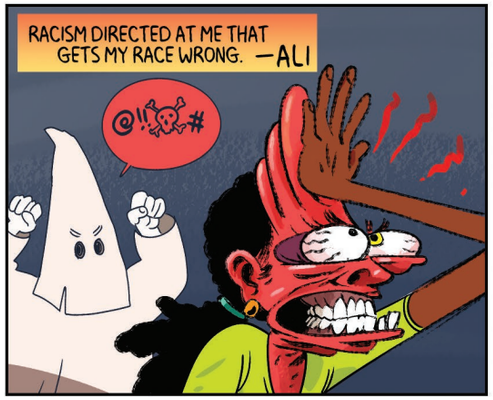
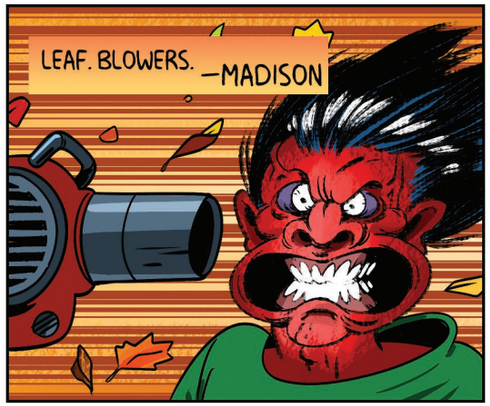
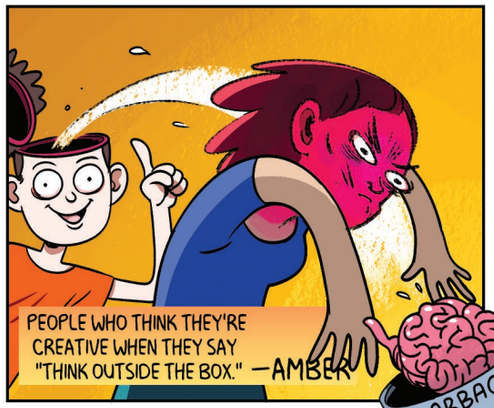
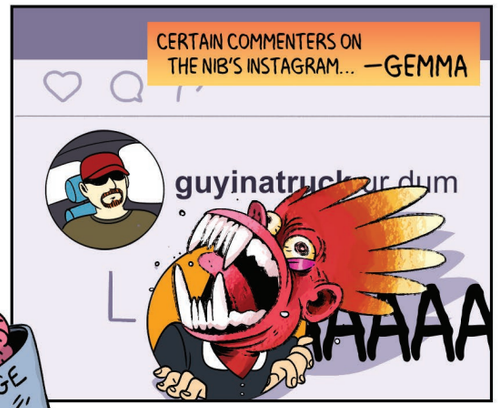
What Makes You See Red?



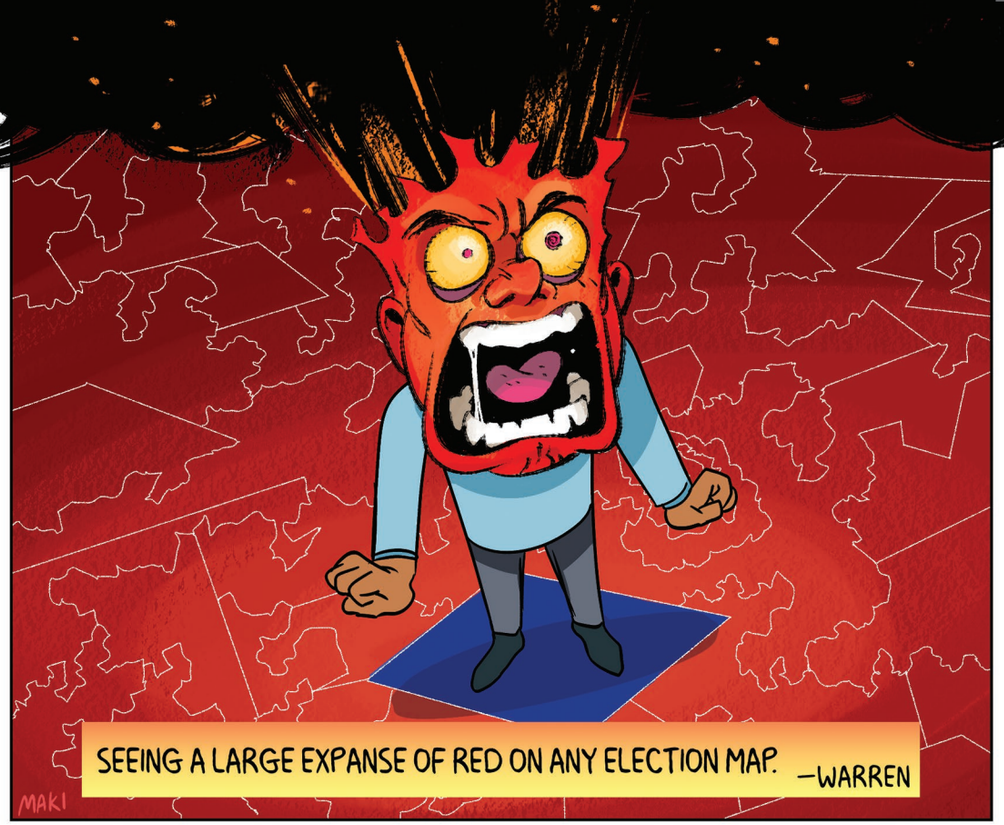








You ever get so mad you blank out in rage, lose control of your executive functions, and have steam coming out of your ears? We asked The Nib*'s Inkwell members what gets them so heated they blow their top like little cartoon characters. Drawn by Maki Naro.*



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M. Sabine Rear is a cartoonist, comics educator, and the cute blind lady you gave your seat to on the bus. She makes comics and zines about disability and public space.

Erlend Hjortland Sandøy is a baby pink cartoonist and one of those reds. He is currently living in the greenwashing capital of the world.

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